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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For June 4, 1947)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, June 4 -

**GRAIN COMMITMENTS MET** - Stuttgart - General Clay disclosed today that 340,000 tons of wheat and flour had been shipped to Germany from the United States since May 1. Despite the "terrific strain" on shipping facilities and the refusal of other countries to permit a divergence of their grain allocations to Germany, he said, the United States more than kept its promise to supply at least 300,000 tons of grain in May.

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**CUSTOMS TARIFF PARLEY STILL SPEEDING IN GENEVA** - Geneva, Switzerland - A spokesman of the International Trade Conference said today that the progress of bilateral bargaining for a mutual reduction of customs tariffs was well up to schedule and that the negotiations were proceeding at substantial speed.

Progress on the drafting of amendments to the world trade charter is also satisfactory, the spokesman said. He added that no major snag that could not be removed by amicable discussion had been struck.

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**MORE SUGAR GRANTED TO FOOD PROCESSORS** - Washington - The Agriculture Department increased sugar allowances today for food processors and canners as a Senate banking subcommittee scheduled a hearing for tomorrow on a bill to end sugar rationing immediately.

The department raised the allowance for most fruit canners from 90 to 100 per cent of what they used in 1941. Some other canners whose basic allowance has been below the industry average received the promise of an increase to bring them in line with the average.

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From New York Journal of Commerce, June 4 -

**BAKERS HIT FEDERAL FARM PROGRAM** - Washington - Representative Poage (Dem., Tex.) complained today he's tired of hearing witnesses at hearings on a long range agricultural program talk about savings while "nobody tells us just where it can be done."

He addressed his remarks to C. W. Bailey, president of the American Bankers Association, who had suggested to the House Agriculture Committee that economics could be achieved through consolidation and elimination of Government agencies supplying farm credit.

"I agree," Poage told Bailey, "that savings should be made, but please specify exactly which functions should be cut. Generalizations are not worth the paper they are written on."

Bailey replied that he was "not prepared" at this time to make specific recommendations. He added that other witnesses would do so.

John N. Thomson, vice president of the Bank of Centerville, S.D., and a representative of the American Bankers Association, then told the committee that elimination of direct Government lending, except possibly for "disaster loans," should be "a goal to be attained as rapidly as possible.

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From New York Journal of Commerce, June 4 -

REFINED SUGAR DEMAND HEAVY - Demand for refined sugar among wholesalers and retailer's is reported to be pouring in to refiners, and considerable of a pickup in demand for bulk sugar from industrial users is developing. While refiners only a few weeks ago were being snowed under by the surpluses accumulating in their plants and warehouses for lack of demand, the rate of orders being submitted is now giving them concern for they are several weeks behind in their shipments.

What occurred is that wholesalers and large retailers as well as industrial users became overly conscious of inventory positions and allowed their limited supplies to become exhausted. Now everyone is rushing to the refiner with an order and expecting that it will be shipped on the same day.

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WILL OPPOSE BILL TO DECONTROL SUGAR - Washington - Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson and Sugar Rationing Administrator James Marshall are expected to oppose immediate decontrol of sugar rationing at a Senate hearing tomorrow, on the grounds that insufficient information is currently available to take such a step now.

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URGES REVISION OF SUGAR QUOTA ACT - Immediate action by Congress to revise sugar quota legislation and increase the quota the United States permits Cuba to furnish to consumers here, as recommended by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson and Secretary of State George C. Marshall, is urged by the United States Cuban Sugar Council in its news bulletin just published.

A bill to extend the sugar quota act for an additional year, until Dec. 31, 1948, has been introduced in the House of Representatives and referred to the Agriculture Committee.

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DEPRESSION IN US VIEWED UNLIKELY - Washington - The Congressional Economic Committee, headed by Senator Robert A. Taft (Rep., Ohio), today said a survey of business expectations for 1947 "does not give any real support to the theory that we are nearing a depression."

Announcing public hearings beginning June 23, at which business, labor and other groups will be heard, the Congressional Economic Committee reported the substantial completion of a survey covering business leaders in manufacturing, mining, construction, transportation, finance and insurance and the wholesale and retail trade.

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From New York Wall Street Journal, June 4 -

NEW RAIL REFRIGERATOR CAR NEEDS NO ICE FOR ZERO TEMPERATURES; GETS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT 'OK' - Washington - A reefer revolution is on the way. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has tested and pronounced "OK" a new type of railroad transportation refrigerator car which will maintain zero temperatures without the use of ice. It appears likely to break a transportation bottleneck that has plagued the frozen food industry almost from the day of its birth.

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From the Capital, Topeka, (Kans.,) - May 25, 1947

NO GOOD CAN COME OF FERTILIZER DRIVE: AUTHOR RAPS PLOW, COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER AS RUINERS OF SOIL - Edward H. Faulkner, whose sensational book "Plowman's Folly" attacked the moldboard plow as the villain that causes depleted soil, in his new book "A Second Look," published by the University of Oklahoma Press, takes commercial fertilizers to task.

"Plowman's Folly," which was characterized by Time magazine as being "one of the most revolutionary ideas in agricultural history," sold 340,000 copies and started a controversy that still rages. His new book threatens to be equally controversial because he strikes directly at the fertilizers industry.

"Currently," he says, "farmers are being urged to use still greater quantities of lime and other 'aids' as a means of repairing the damage alleged to have been done to their soils by the extra production made necessary by the war. No permanent good can come of this campaign, and much real harm may result."

Faulkner, who has recently completed an intensive tour of experiment stations and agricultural colleges, could find "no answer, so far as I have been able to learn, to my argument that the earth is self-sufficient for nourishing the life it develops. I am sure that there is no refutation possible."

The incorporation of profuse organic materials into the surface of the soil is all that is necessary to start natural processes toward releasing minerals from the soil and to put even the most depleted soils back into full and natural production. He claims that the soil provides within root reach enormous tonnages of all the minerals that plants require.

Furthermore, the natural plant foods thus manufactured in the soil will make crops much more immune to plant disease and insect devastation.

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From the Post-Gazette, Pittsburgh, (Pa.), May 26, -

THE WOOL TARIFF-Editorial-By approving the wool-grab bill last Friday, the House of Representatives may have torpedoed the Geneva trade conference. Certainly we must seem either scheming hypocrites or hopeless fools to the 18 nations with which we have been talking about freeing world trade.

For while our State Department officials have been urging an end to preferential tariffs and bilateral dealing, our isolationist and selfish congressmen have voted to continue wholesale subsidies for the wool-growing industry and to raise tariffs on imports of wool--most of which comes from the British Empire.

The wool-grab bill, which has already been passed by the Senate, does just about everything we have been trying to stop other nations from doing. Not only does it keep the present high tariff on wool, but it instructs the President to raise this barrier whenever imports are found to be reducing the amount of domestic fiber produced.

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From the Constitution, Atlanta, (Ga.), May 27 -

INFLATED FARM LAND PRICES-Editorial-Although it is obvious that present excessive prices for farm products cannot long continue, the price of farm lands has not yet shown any tendency to come down into the realm of reality. Land prices here in Georgia and elsewhere are based on the high prices and high profits farmers have been earning during the past few years, but do not reflect the real long-term value of the farms through good times and bad.

From Detroit (Mich.) Free Press, May 27, 1947 -

CONTRADICTION IN POTATOES - Editorial - The recent picture and news story of the destruction by Government officials of 50 tons of potatoes in Alabama has created a wave of public indignation scarcely equaled in recent times.

And very rightly so!

For accompanying news dispatches tell of potato shortages in several regions of the United States. In Richmond, Va., for example, the lack of potatoes in the markets was so acute that carloads were rushed in from Canada and sold for fancy prices. And at the same time, the Government was buying up and destroying potatoes on farms within 30 miles of Richmond.

It is such instances as these that make the public seriously doubt the reports of the Government that potatoes cannot be shipped economically for the relief of famine in foreign countries. They can be shipped to the United States from Canada at premium prices for Canadian growers.

The cost of destroying United States grown potatoes in order to keep the price up is \$80,000,000. Yet President Turman in one breath says prices are too high and in the other that taxes cannot safely be cut.

Quite obviously, under the kind of an agricultural program that his Administration is supporting, there is no chance for either lower prices or taxes.

From the New Orleans (La.) Times-Picayune, May 26, 1947 -

COTTON KILLER? - Editorial - The first setback to the chemical phase of the state's campaign against excess waterway vegetation is reported from the Ouachita-Morehouse parish section, where an estimated 2000 acres of cotton crops along Bayou Bartholomew were reportedly destroyed by a 2,4-D spray. The weed-killer, developed by the United States bureau of agricultural research has hitherto proved, in experiments and in control work conducted by army engineers and state wildlife authorities, an effective slayer of water hyacinth and alligator grass, yet harmless to rice and sugar cane crops. Whether the hyacinth or some other form of clogging vegetation was being attacked on Bayou Bartholomew is not clear, but considerable injury may have been done to public reception of the program as well as to the farmers affected near Monroe.

According to Dr. Clair Brown, Louisiana State University agronomist, cotton is among the plants extremely susceptible to slight quantities of this rather mysterious blighter of growth processes. That being known, as well as the ever-present possibility of a drifting of poison-spray aerially applied, an answer seems very much in order to the blunt question: "How come?"

From Louisville (KY.) Courier-Journal, May 27, 1947-

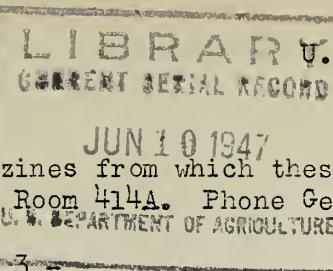
AN OVERLOOKED REASON FOR HIGH FOOD PRICES - Editorial - There is a lot of more or less scientific discussion of high prices and the reasons for them. Some of these reasons, quite clear to the professional economist, are beyond the ken of the man on the street--things like the great increase in money supply because of the war and the Government's need to borrow tremendously. The very flood in which money poured out tended to cheapen it, and this means inflation.

But it strikes us that there are other things, too. Where food prices are concerned, a swift glance at a report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture finds some light. Our own eating, as well as the necessity of sending food abroad and thus shortening our supply, is not to be overlooked. The country has got into the habit of eating more and better than ever before. Its demands are having their effect.

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From the New York Times, June 3 -

U.S. 'BREADBASKET' FACING POOR CROPS; PLANTING SEVERELY RETARDED IN MIDDLE WEST BY LATE, COLD SPRING, HEAVY RAINS - Chicago - Crop prospects in the Middle West, the nation's bread basket, were darkened today as the result of the unusually late, cold spring, capped by heavy rainfall over the week-end.

Farmers generally were two to five weeks behind with their planting, with no immediate prospect of getting into the fields until a period of hot sunshine dries up the surface moisture. The forecast is for more rain later this week.

Oats ordinarily are the first crop to be planted. Because of unfavorable planting conditions, the oat acreage is far below normal this year and the oats that are in have progressed slowly.

Corn planting is late, with prospects that much of the crop cannot be seeded before the traditional June 7 deadline. Farm experts consider that corn planted after this date faces danger of being nipped by fall frosts before it matures.

Wheat now nearing maturity in the Southwest is reported in danger of rust due to heavy rains. Leaf, or red rust has developed in the Kansas wheat areas, and the wet weather is delaying harvesting.

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FEED CROPS HIT HARD; ONTARIO MAY LOSE 70% OF HER PLANTINGS, OFFICIAL SAYS - Toronto - Seventy percent of Ontario's 3,230,000 acres of feed crops may be lost this year because of incessant rainfall and an abnormally cold spring, Minister of Agriculture T. L. Kennedy said today.

He asserted that only 60 percent of the entire crop of coarse feed grain has been sown and that it is expected only 50 percent of it will be reaped.

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From The Journal of Commerce, June 3 -

SUGAR REFINERS are two weeks behind orders on packages, in a sharp reversal from the glut that prevailed two weeks ago. Trade observers feel if present sugar demand persists, it would be foolhardy to remove rationing controls before Oct. 31.

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SCORN GOVERNMENT FERTILIZER PROGRAM: INDUSTRY SEES SOIL FERTILITY BILL AS SUPERFLUOUS MEASURE - Washington - The Senate today was urged by a spokesman for the Fertilizer Manufacturing Industry to restore cuts in appropriation for established Government agricultural agencies instead of spending more money on a new soil fertility program.

Testifying before the Senate Agriculture Committee on the Hickenlooper-Flanagan National Soil Fertility Policy bill, Ralph B. Douglas, vice president of the Smith-Douglas Co. and chairman of the executive committee of the American Plant Food Council, said that the fertilizer industry and Government agencies are already "doing extensive research work," and contended that the Government cannot meet shortages as quickly as private industry.

From the Wall Street Journal, June 3, 1947 -

THE EXPORT BOOM, by collapsing, could jolt high home-front commodity prices. And dwindling dollar supplies overseas makes something like a collapse by the year end quite possible. April foreign trade figures showed the world buying U.S. products worth three times as much as goods shipped into the U.S. during the month. The drain on dollar balances is fierce. Many foreign pockets are about empty.

Cotton goods exports (measured in dollars) are about 15 times as great as pre-war. Exports of rayon, nylon and other synthetics are 28 times the 1939 volume. All these manufactured goods are made of raw commodities when the export flood-tide ebbs, demand for these staples must feel the impact. And the pressure will be downward on prices.

Before the post-World War I export trade collapse in 1921, U.S. exports were running 60% above imports. Exports today are nearly 200% above import totals.

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SUGAR HOARDING now has official Agriculture Department sanction. Almost daily the department exhorts housewives and merchants to stock up. To lend-weight to its plea, the government agency warns that sugar may not be available later in the season when the housewife wants to do some preserving.

The reason given for the federally sponsored hoarding drive is the freight car scarcity. Officials say they want to get as much sugar into consumption channels as possible before the mammoth wheat crop ties up the cars.

Another possible reason not officially ballyhooed: If the government is quietly planning to drop sugar rationing and ceilings in the next month or two, well-stocked pantries and store shelves will act as a brake on any price boosting that might be attempted.

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WHEAT GOALS for 1948 will shoot at another bumper crop. Slim European harvest prospects don't stop with this season. Gloomy forecasts for slow farm recovery cover next year, too. And, with an eye on these forecasts, Agriculture Secretary Anderson is not expected to ask farmers to cut production in 1948.

The number of acres farmers will be asked to plant to winter and spring wheat next fall and spring is due to be announced later this month. No figures have been made public yet, but officials close to Anderson say he is thinking in terms of around 70 million acres. That's about the same as the goal set for this season.

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THE HARVEST of this year's wheat has reached the hold-your-breath stage. It's getting started in the Southwest now--will be in full swing within 10 days. If the weather remains clear and dry, by far the biggest crop on record will be garnered. But heavy rains now could bring tremendous losses. Ripe, unharvested wheat can be knocked to the ground by rain; and the combines and reapers can't pick it up. Also much threshed grain is certain to be piled on the ground this year; and rain hitting it there could bring much spoilage.

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GREASE WASTAGE in home kitchens worries Washington officials charged with watching fats and oils. Government publicity encouraging housewives to resume wartime saving will be stepped up soon. Latest official figures (Jan. 1) showed total fats and oils stocks about 25% below a year earlier.

From Philadelphia (Pa.) Inquirer, May 27, 1947 -

TO SOLVE FOOD SHORTAGES -- Editorial -- The International Emergency Food Council has done well to call a special cereal conference, as suggested by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson to explain the gravity of the world food situation.

From all reports another year of serious shortages is ahead for many European countries. The United States is able to share its grain in substantial measure, as it has been doing for some time past. But the whole problem of feeding Europe's hungry should be worked out to a more orderly solution.

For one thing, it is increasingly necessary that countries seeking our help make every effort to supply a larger part of their cereal requirements from their own or nearby areas. A more vigorous attempt should be made to promote self-help by the needy countries.

Only by real cooperation -- and real planning and economy by countries facing further grave food shortages -- will the tremendous issue of famine in Europe be met.

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From Billings (Mont.) Gazette, May 21, 1947 -

OVERPRODUCTION AGAIN LOOMS -- Editorial -- It is predicted that American farmers will produce this year the greatest wheat crop on record, in excess of one billion, 200 million bushels. That will mean a surplus over domestic requirements of 400,000,000 bushels or more. Under existing conditions, this huge surplus will be easily disposed of to the famine areas in other parts of the globe. Much of it will be given away by our government but the growers of that staple will not suffer from that method of disposal. They will receive for their crop in excess of three billion dollars.

This condition will doubtless prevail for at least another crop year but when the other nations begin to recover from the ravages of war and are more nearly meeting their own needs, this country will again be faced by the perplexing problem of what to do with its surplus grain and other agricultural products. It may then be necessary to revert to some of the policies adopted and followed during the years immediately following the depression in 1929. One of those policies was paying subsidies for acreage reductions.

One new deal policy, fathered by then Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace which will be rejected was that of destroying food products. There will be no more slaughtering of little pigs.

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From the Worcester (Mass.) Telegram, May 24, 1947 -

THE FARMER IS WARNED -- Editorial -- On the heels of President Truman's recent warning about farm inflation, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson has called a conference of farm leaders and agricultural loan executives to be held in Washington June 9 and 10 to discuss the problem of soaring farm land values. Mr. Anderson expressed grave concern over the fact that current farm real estate prices are now 92 percent above the 1935-39 average, said this presented a serious future problem, and urged "voluntary" methods to halt the upward trend.

Mr. Truman should be concerned with the inflationary spiral in farm land values, but, to use an old farm expression, his belated concern now is rather like locking the barn after the horse is stolen. With 1948 not so far away, the Administration is doing considerable tub-thumping for voluntary reductions of this price and that price, but economists know that the forces which brought about the present inflation were unleashed, and encouraged, by the Washington administration.

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From the Fargo (N.D.) Forum, May 21, 1947 -

HITS PROPOSED FARM LAND PRICE PARLEY - Washington - (UP) - Sen. Harlan J. Bushfield (R-SD) protested in the senate Tuesday against a conference on farm land prices called for June 9 by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson at the request of President Truman.

"President Truman's proposal to call a conference of farm leaders for the purpose of setting a ceiling price on farm land prices is ill-conceived and, in my opinion, can only result in damage to the farmers of America," Bushfield told the senate.

Noting that Mr. Truman compared present prices with 1935-39 levels, Bushfield said the increase was not "inflationary" but rather a return to "normalcy" from abnormal lows. He said farm prices are much lower than the 1920 peak.

"I hope that the president and the secretary of agriculture will be better advised than to attempt a continuation of the office of price control upon farm lands," Bushfield said.

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From the Greenville (S.C.) News, May 23, 1947 -

FARM PRICES AND DEBT -- Editorial -- Despite the high percentage rise in the price of farm lands since pre-war years, it is a fact of interest that neither in South Carolina nor in the country as a whole, on the average, have these prices reached the levels attained just after the first World War.

For the country as a whole, the percentage of rise in prices since 1939 has been greater than that from 1914 to 1920. But the 1939 level was not so high as that of 1914.

Yet this sharp rise since 1939 should contain a warning now against too heavy assumption of mortgage debt in buying farm lands at these prices. As is pertinently pointed out by Dr. M.C. Rochester, Clemson extension economist, prospective purchasers of farm lands should realize that future earnings are more important than present or past earnings in determining land values. Any drastic decline in the future prices of agricultural products may make a present seemingly small indebtedness greater than the full market value of the farm would be a few years later.

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From the Kansas City (Mo.) Star -- May 21, 1947

CARS TO MOVE THE WHEAT -- Editorial -- Somehow the railroads will have to handle the movement of the Mid-West's billion-bushel wheat crop, a record yield, between now and the end of the harvesting in July. The railroads concede they will be hard-pressed to transport the grain on schedule. For the critical shortage of boxcars has been eased only slightly since a Senate hearing served to focus nation-wide attention on its importance earlier this year.

The railroads report they have built up a reserve of freight cars in the wheat-growing region. Eastern lines, often accused in the past of hanging onto an unfair share of the available rolling stock have been ordered by the Association of American Railroads to turn over more cars to the western roads during the harvest.

Seaboard industrial interests have objected to the routing of rail equipment away from the East. But their concern over a possible delay in shipping some factory products has been outweighed by the urgency of transporting grain to feed the United States and permit government exports to the world's needy countries.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A, Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, June 2 -

FRENCH FOOD RISE IN 1946 REPORTED: CONTINUED PROGRESS THIS YEAR SHOWN IN NATIONAL CITY AND COUNTRY SURVEY--Paris--After extensive nutritional studies conducted throughout France the bulletin of the National Hygiene Institute reported today that France had made important progress during 1946.

However, in the last quarter a setback was registered, ascribed to the enforced reduction of expenditures for food because of the price increases. Since then the upward trend in prices has been somewhat halted but a serious wheat crisis expected to last through the greater part of the next fourteen months has developed and will cause a slackening of the trend toward recovery.

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BRITISH TO STUDY PEANUTS: MISSION WILL SURVEY WEST AFRICA FOR LARGE-SCALE PRODUCTION--London--A British Government mission will leave shortly for West Africa to investigate the possibilities of large-scale mechanized production of peanuts, the Colonial Office announced today.

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GOVERNMENT TRIES TO SET SILK VOGUE: CAN CUT COSTS OF OCCUPYING JAPAN IF WOMEN GO BACK TO IT--DRIVE IS PLANNED--Washington--The Government is trying to sell to American women the idea of wearing silk again. Its motives are not to make the ladies more beautiful but to reduce the costs of occupying Japan. The United States Commercial Company, a subsidiary of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, which has the job of selling Japanese raw silk here, plans to start a big promotion program to win over the women.

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BUYER RESISTANCE AFFECTS CLOTHING: COMMERCE DEPARTMENT FINDS ACTION AGAINST HIGH PRICES ALSO FELT IN TEXTILE TRADE--Washington--The effect of buyer resistance, attributed to the rise in prices, is being felt by manufacturers of clothing and textile products, the Department of Commerce reported today.

A Department analysis showed that manufacturers in some branches of the industry, notably in soft woolen goods and women's apparel, are cutting output already. It noted, however, that this reduced production came at a time when many of the clothing shortages of the past year are being relieved.

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From New York Herald Tribune, June 2 -

THE WOOL TARIFF - Editorial - With legislation to raise the tariff on wool still pending in Congress, Secretary Marshall has intervened to express his concern over the effects such action would have on American foreign policy. "Wool is a symbol of our intentions in foreign trade," he said, warning that the success of the international trade discussions in Geneva would be jeopardized by adoption of a bill, already passed by the House, permitting an increase up to 50% in import levies on wool. At Geneva the U.S. has been advocating a reduction of international barriers. The House action was a source of considerable embarrassment to American delegation.

From the Wall Street Journal, June 2, 1947 -

ARGENTINE WHEAT SHIPMENTS INCREASED - Shipments of wheat from the Argentine established a new high for the season this past week, amounting to 3,417,000 bu., compared with 1,624,000 bu. in the previous week and with 272,000 bu. in the corresponding week last year.

The past week's clearances were distributed as follows: To United Kingdom, 834,000 bu.; Continent, 1,389,000 bu., and to non-Europe, 1,194,000 bu.

From January 1 to date, wheat shipments from the Argentine aggregated 29,- 462,000 bu. This compares with 21,745,000 bu. during the corresponding period last year.

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From the Baltimore Sun, June 2, 1947 -

COOL SPRING HITS PLANTING; SOWING OF VITAL GRAINS HAS BEEN HAMPERED, Washington, June 1 (AP) - A wet cool spring has hampered seriously the sowing of such vital grains as corn, oats and barley, officials reported today, and delayed the planting of soybeans, an important source of scarce food fats.

The result, they contend, is to emphasize President Truman's requests that Congress continue for another year the Government's authority to control the export of scarce foods, now scheduled to expire June 30.

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From the Chicago Daily Tribune, June 2, 1947 -

GERMANS GAIN IN WEIGHT DESPITE FOOD SHORTAGE, Berlin, (AP) - The average weight of adult city dwellers in the American zone increased during April, a month of critical food shortage, indicating many Germans obtained food from "off-the-ration" sources, the American military government said today.

The AMG's public health branch said its street weighing check on the Germans' nutritional status disclosed that a trend toward weight declines evidenced in March was arrested during April.

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FAMINE STALKS INDIA; RATION CUT THREATENED; GRAIN BADLY NEEDED TO COMBAT HUNGER, New Delhi, India, (Reuters) - India's larder, never adequately stocked since 1942 when an annual shipment of 2,000,000 tons of rice from southeast Asia was cut off, is emptying fast.

The country is heading towards a food crisis which not even one of the most efficient rationing administrations in the world can stave off unless the trickle of grain imports is swollen into a heavy flow within the next few months.

The 150,000,000 persons now registered for rations--12 ounces for adults and six ounces for children--are threatened with a cut.

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From the New York Herald Tribune, June 2, 1947 -

IMPORT QUOTA RISE URGED FOR LONG STAPLE COTTON - Cotton mills specializing in thread and certain types of fine goods are faced with shutdowns unless immediate action is taken to increase the quota on imports of Egyptian extra long staple length cotton, according to a statement issued by the Cotton-Textile Institute.

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From Omaha (Nebr.) World Herald, May 25 -

**BOXCAR LACK TO BE WORSE; REED CITES BIG WHEAT CROP AS PROBLEM** - With the 1947 wheat crop estimated at an all-time high, the nation's tight boxcar situation once more is under close scrutiny.

"The size of the crop this year will present more difficulties than ever before," says Senator Reed (Rep. Kans.) an acknowledged transportation expert.

"Right now there simply are not enough cars to go around," admits the Association of American Railroads, but . . . "the record is they (the railroads) are moving more freight more miles than ever before in peace-time."

The AAR actually is the big mogul in the distribution of boxcars, because the chairman of its Car Service Division is the duly authorized agent of the Interstate Commerce Commission, which by law is vested with distributing authority.

And the AAR doesn't like sly hints that its Western members are in revolt against the association because it is dominated by the Eastern lines.

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From Boise (Idaho) Statesman, May 23 -

**RAILROAD AGENT CITES POSSIBLE CAR SHORTAGE** - Abnormal grain movement throughout the United States this harvest period will lead to a shortage of railroad rolling stock to handle the crop, Kay L. Johnson, general agent for the Union Pacific, said here Thursday.

He said the shortage would be reflected in Idaho when it came time to begin shipping grain from the western part of the state around July 1.

But said Johnson, a slow movement of grain would enable Idaho and the rest of the nation "to get by in good shape."

At the present time, he said, railroads are "strong box cars," in contrast to some periods last year when there were insufficient cars to handle the freight load.

The government, said Johnson, expects a billion bushel grain harvest, and the impact of moving this crop, or part of it, probably won't be felt until about July 1.

He said abnormal grain movement and consequent car shortages would result if growers attempt to move their product direct from the fields to terminal markets.

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From Salt Lake City (Utah) Tribune, May 23 -

**GULF IN FARM PRICES LAID TO INEFFICIENCY; DISCREPANCY IN COST LINKED TO NUMBER HANDLING PRODUCE** - One of the main reasons a wide gulf exists between prices paid farmers for produce and the price consumers pay is marketing inefficiency, R. Harvey Dastrup, state commissioner of agriculture, declared Thursday.

"In too many instances, far too many identities have contact for profit with the product involved prior to its reaching the final consumer," he asserted. An efficient marketing system would eliminate many of the intermediate hands in the long distance between farm and market, he opined.

Handlers of foodstuffs do not charge exorbitantly necessarily, he said, but efficiency in the marketing field would eliminate some of the final consumer cost, he said.

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From Bakersfield Californian, May 19 -

FARM LAND PRICES - Editorial - Farmers, economists, veterans who would like to be farmers, and banks and real estate agencies will follow closely the proceedings of a conference of government and private lending agencies and farm leaders in Washington June 9 on the subject of the present dangerous inflation of farm land prices.

The meeting has been called by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson at the suggestion of President Truman, who declared he is deeply concerned over the level of farm real estate and is anxious to prevent a collapse such as that which followed World War I and brought ruin to thousands of farmers.

Figures quoted by the President show that farm land values now stand at 92 per cent above the 1935-39 average. They have increased 12 per cent since March, 1946. Economists generally agree that the present prices cannot be sustained by probable long-time farm earnings and in this case, are entirely out of line with farm earnings of record. Continuance of this situation will be disastrous to farmers.

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From Chicago Sun, May 26 -

BAA, BAA, BLACK SHEEP - Editorial - Wool growing accounts for an infinitesimal fraction of this country's national income. Even in the biggest wool-producing states, income from that product represents less than 2 or 3 per cent of the total income. Yet for the sake of this minor economic interest, the House passed a bill which threatens the success of the Geneva trade conference, now under way, for the reduction of world tariff barriers.

The ostensible purpose of the bill, which has already passed the Senate, is to continue for two years more the wartime device by which the government became the sole buyer of American wool. But it involves a much more fundamental issue, nothing less than the future of our entire world economic policy.

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From Little Rock (Ark.) Gazette, May 25 -

THOSE KEROSENE POTATOES AND FEDERAL LAW - Editorial - In these times of food shortage and high prices, the federal Production and Marketing Administration dumped 11,500 bushels of potatoes in the woods in Alabama and deliberately ruined them with kerosene. But a PMA representative said that the men who are complaining in Washington about the destruction of these potatoes are the ones who made the law under which potatoes are destroyed to keep prices up. These were surplus B-size potatoes.

The government guarantees the farmer 90 per cent of parity for all potatoes, he produces. When there is not sufficient demand for potatoes at support prices the Agriculture Department buys the surplus supplies, although we are told that efforts are made to make use of potatoes bought by the government.

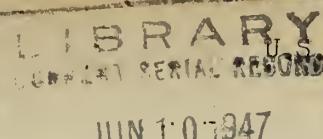
It might naturally be said that the government should have given these potatoes away instead of destroying them. But a PMA spokesman in Alabama said, "We can't give these potatoes away."

When the government undertakes to keep up the price of a farm product it can't let surpluses of this product be dumped on the market. It can't even give away such surpluses.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For May 29, 1947)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

JUN 10 1947

*Cap 2*  
(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Garrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, May 29 -

FOOD COUNCIL PUTS PARLEY IN EUROPE: ERASES PREVIOUS PLAN AND SETS CONFERENCE IN THE REGION WHERE STEPS ARE NEEDED-Washington-The International Emergency Food Council today voted, 10 to 1, that the crisis in bread rations was such as to necessitate calling a special cereals conference in Europe before the third week in July.

The time limit set was to make possible a system of collection and management of new crops as they come in, so that they will not be dissipated, hoarded or black marketed, particularly in the occupied countries. The hope is to preclude another crisis next spring.

As part of the same resolution, the IEFC voted to ask its parent organization the Food and Agriculture Organization, to invite the responsible ministers of the member governments to such a conference.

Swept aside by this action was the resolution formulated by the drafting committee appointed at the Monday meeting of IEFC, which would have had the IEFC itself call the meeting in Washington.

The resolution, as voted, backed up the request made by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson in a formal letter, read Monday by Dr. Dennis A. Fitzgerald, Director General of the FAO.

Informally and orally Mr. Anderson, as United States member of the council, told the members Monday he did not care whether the cereals conference was held in Europe or this country.

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U.N. ASKS NATIONS TO PRODUCE DATA ON FOOD THEY CAN GIVE TO NEEDY-Lake Success-Secretary General Trygve Lie has asked members of the United Nations for statements of the relief supplies they are prepared to give to the war devastated countries.

In a brief questionnaire, made public here today, Mr. Lie requested each of the fifty five member Governments to specify the contributions it would make after the termination on June 30 of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

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U.S. SCANS STATE PRICE LAWS AS BARS TO LIVING COST CUT-Washington-The Government is undertaking a broadscale study of so called fair trade laws throughout the country in its latest effort to bring about a general lowering prices to consumers, it was learned today.

At least three Federal offices are cooperating in the project at the present time. They are: The Federal Trade Commission, which is canvassing businessmen to determine how consumer price levels in several industries are fixed, or "established or suggested" by manufacturers.

The President's Council of Economic Advisors, which is considering the whole problem of how state and local laws pertaining to price fixing and based on Federal legislation might be used as barriers to further reductions of prices. The Office of John R. Steelman, Asst. to the President, who is coordinating for President Truman the Government's consideration of fair trade regulations in their relation to prices.

From New York Times, May 29 -

ASKS FENCE ALONG BORDER: AGRICULTURE ADVISORY GROUP SEES WAY TO CUT DISEASE FROM MEXICO-Washington-An Agriculture Department advisory committee urged today that a fence be built along the Mexican United States border in an effort to keep the foot and mouth disease from spreading to livestock in the United States.

The committee, appointed recently by Secretary Clinton P. Anderson, said there was grave danger of the disease being brought into this country by unauthorized movement of livestock across the boundary.

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BUYER'S MARKET IN CANDY IS SEEN-Chicago-Confectionery manufacturers were informed today that a buyer's market was developing in some essential candy ingredients and that sugar allocations probably would be increased soon.

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From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, May 29 -

ASK CONTINUATION OF GRAIN CONTROLS-Washington-Continuation of export controls on grains and grain products until the end of this year, and possibly for three months after that time, was today asked by representatives of the grain trade.

Appearing before Senator John Cooper's subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, William C. Schilthuis, representing the North American Export Grain Association and W. B. Fox appearing for the National Grain Trade Council both supported this view but held that the Government should return to the private trade the business of supplying export wheat to foreign claimants.

Representing flour millers, as distinct from the foregoing grain associations, Martin Smith of the Flour Millers' Export Association testified in favor of the measure providing for extension of the Export Control Act. The only pending legislation would provide a one year extension of the act.

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SUGAR ALLOTMENTS-Third quarter sugar allotments for industrial users will be 75 percent of the base period and for the fourth period the same base will apply for one month to the end of rationing controls on Oct. 31. While no official announcement has been made, trade sources say that this report is official.

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CANNED FOOD REPORTS-Census Bureau issues first in its revised series of monthly canned food reports, revealing that April shipments of five major canned vegetable products were off half a million cases from March and sharply below a year ago. Stocks of 14 items have dropped 7 percent during the month.

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From Watertown (N.Y.) Daily Times, May 26 -

HIGH TARIFFS AND OUR NEW WORLD ROLE - Editorial - The house of representatives has dealt the Truman Doctrine a treacherous blow. At a time when we are spending billions in an effort to restore Europe's economy, the house has increased the tariff on wool as the first in a series of moves to build up new tariff barriers and prevent Europe from trading with us.

Washington correspondents say that it is extremely likely that the senate will accept the house amendment and the wool tariff will be increased unless President Truman vetoes the bill which is held to be entirely possible. What makes this action of congress particularly distressing is that it is construed as a major "policy-setting" move and indicates a general uptrend in tariff rates.

Europe cannot be rehabilitated simply by shipping food there and loaning money. That meets the immediate need but we cannot keep on doing that indefinitely. The long-time objective of this relief program is to restore Europe's productivity, both in agricultural products and in manufactured goods.

What good is the restoration of Europe's productive capacity if there are no markets for Europe's goods? We cannot keep on selling Europe \$16,000,000,000 worth of goods, as we did last year, and buying only \$8,000,000,000 worth of European exports unless we supply the money to make up the difference. Surely that is elemental.

What these economic isolationists in congress are trying to do is to provide money for the restoration of European economy, on the one hand, and then, through the imposition of high tariffs, prevent Europe selling anything here once that economy is restored.

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From Dallas (Texas.) News, May 22 -

HOLDING THE WOOL BAG - Editorial - Consumers and taxpayers have been holding the bag for America's wool producers, to enable them to make abnormal profits. Americans still pay wartime prices for wool clothing, and men's suits are expected to be even higher next fall, because Uncle Sam has been buying virtually all the wool produced in this country in the last four years -- and buying at much higher than market prices. When the government sells this wool, it must sell it at the market price. This usually means selling at a loss.

The wool growers also insist upon an addition to the present 34c a pound tariff on wool and a floor tax on all imported wool in this country. These measures would impose additional burdens on the consumer and would drive even higher prices of woolen goods, which manufacturers and dealers would like to produce. These proposals were a serious handicap to our delegates at the recent Geneva trade barriers. They run counter to our reciprocal trade program and to the President's efforts to get prices down from their wartime levels.

Both the government's wartime wool imports and its buying up of the domestic clip at above-market prices may have been justified when a big wool supply was needed to clothe and supply our armed forces -- though it turned out that these measures brought a bigger stockpile than was needed. Yet the war is over now, and the nation must return to a peacetime economy.

From Columbia (S.C.) State, May 23 -

DESTRUCTION OF POTATOES - Editorial - The Department of Agriculture admits that Canada grown potatoes are being sold in the South while produce from this section have been destroyed because they were of inferior quality and no one would buy them. Some 11,500 bushels are said to have been burned.

No doubt the little culls could not find a market in the general sense. At the same time our armed forces face the threat of food riots in Germany because the Germans are hungry.

It is to be expected that some red tape would attach to any effort to have the Southern culls shipped overseas in order to stop European hunger. At the same time it is difficult to believe that a certain amount of enterprise on the part of the proper authority would not have snipped this red tape, at least to the point of having the potatoes stored or dehydrated, for which they would have served.

It would have been a good day's work.

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From Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser, May 22 -

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT - Editorial - There is so much stark need of food in various parts of the world it is strange that the American farmer should be forced to destroy what he cannot dispose of in glutted home markets. Something is radically wrong with our present system of distribution and storage when it becomes necessary for growers to burn potatoes here in Alabama or expose perishable grains to the elements in Minnesota and the Dakotas because these foods are not in immediate demand here at home. Something, too, is wrong with our international relief organization if it cannot find some way to siphon off the American surplus to those countries most in need of what our producers are having to throw away.

If it is up to us to prevent starvation in Europe, why not ship Baldwin's excess potatoes and Squeedunk's extra wheat to hungry Britain or France or Holland or even Germany and Italy? This vast foreign market could absorb everything we produce in the way of unneeded surpluses. If immediate transportation is impossible, we should have no insoluble problem in so far as storage is concerned. In this age of quick-freezing and long-keeping, it is inconceivable that anything except very perishable foodstuffs should be allowed to spoil. Hungry people should be glad to get any surplus at reduced prices that would certainly please producers better than if they had to stand a dead loss by exposure of inexcusable destruction.

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From Boston (Mass.) Globe, May 22 -

SLIGHTLY COCKEYED ECONOMY - Editorial - At direction of the Federal Agriculture Department, kerosene has lately been poured upon tons of Alabama's seasonal potato crop rated as "surplus" because of a "glutted" market. This act repeated the process by which, last December, hundreds of thousands of tons of the proudest product of Maine's Aroostook County were left in the fields to freeze and rot. The theory is that such governmental action sustains a fair price-level for the farmer.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For June 3, 1947)

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JUN 10 1947

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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From the New York Times, June 3

U.S. 'BREADBASKET' FACING POOR CROPS; PLANTING SEVERELY RETARDED IN MIDDLE WEST BY LATE, COLD SPRING, HEAVY RAINS - Chicago - Crop prospects in the Middle West, the nation's bread basket, were darkened today as the result of the unusually late, cold spring, capped by heavy rainfall over the week-end.

Farmers generally were two to five weeks behind with their planting, with no immediate prospect of getting into the fields until a period of hot sunshine dries up the surface moisture. The forecast is for more rain later this week.

Oats ordinarily are the first crop to be planted. Because of unfavorable planting conditions, the oat acreage is far below normal this year and the oats that are in have progressed slowly.

Corn planting is late, with prospects that much of the crop cannot be seeded before the traditional June 7 deadline. Farm experts consider that corn planted after this date faces danger of being nipped by fall frosts before it matures.

Wheat now nearing maturity in the Southwest is reported in danger of rust due to heavy rains. Leaf, or red rust has developed in the Kansas wheat areas, and the wet weather is delaying harvesting.

FEED CROPS HIT HARD; ONTARIO MAY LOSE 70% OF HER PLANTINGS, OFFICIAL SAYS - Toronto - Seventy percent of Ontario's 3,230,000 acres of feed crops may be lost this year because of incessant rainfall and an abnormally cold spring, Minister of Agriculture T. L. Kennedy said today.

He asserted that only 60 percent of the entire crop of coarse feed grain has been sown and that it is expected only 50 percent of it will be reaped.

From The Journal of Commerce, June 3 -

SUGAR REFINERS are two weeks behind orders on packages, in a sharp reversal from the glut that prevailed two weeks ago. Trade observers feel if present sugar demand persists, it would be foolhardy to remove rationing controls before Oct. 31.

SCORN GOVERNMENT FERTILIZER PROGRAM: INDUSTRY SEES SOIL FERTILITY BILL AS SUPERFLUOUS MEASURE - Washington - The Senate today was urged by a spokesman for the Fertilizer Manufacturing Industry to restore cuts in appropriation for established Government agricultural agencies instead of spending more money on a new soil fertility program.

Testifying before the Senate Agriculture Committee on the Hickenlooper-Flanagan National Soil Fertility Policy bill, Ralph B. Douglas, vice president of the Smith-Douglas Co. and chairman of the executive committee of the American Plant Food Council, said that the fertilizer industry and Government agencies are already "doing extensive research work," and contended that the Government cannot meet shortages as quickly as private industry.

From the Wall Street Journal, June 3, 1947 -

THE EXPORT BOOM, by collapsing, could jolt high home-front commodity prices. And dwindling dollar supplies overseas makes something like a collapse by the year end quite possible. April foreign trade figures showed the world buying U.S. products worth three times as much as goods shipped into the U.S. during the month. The drain on dollar balances is fierce. Many foreign pockets are about empty.

Cotton goods exports (measured in dollars) are about 15 times as great as pre-war. Exports of rayon, nylon and other synthetics are 28 times the 1939 volume. All these manufactured goods are made of raw commodities when the export flood-tide ebbs, demand for these staples must feel the impact. And the pressure will be downward on prices.

Before the post-World War I export trade collapse in 1921, U.S. exports were running 60% above imports. Exports today are nearly 200% above import totals.

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SUGAR HOARDING now has official Agriculture Department sanction. Almost daily the department exhorts housewives and merchants to stock up. To lend weight to its plea, the government agency warns that sugar may not be available later in the season when the housewife wants to do some preserving.

The reason given for the federally sponsored hoarding drive is the freight car scarcity. Officials say they want to get as much sugar into consumption channels as possible before the mammoth wheat crop ties up the cars.

Another possible reason not officially ballyhooed: If the government is quietly planning to drop sugar rationing and ceilings in the next month or two, well-stocked pantries and store shelves will act as a brake on any price boosting that might be attempted.

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WHEAT GOALS for 1948 will shoot at another bumper crop. Slim European harvest prospects don't stop with this season. Gloomy forecasts for slow farm recovery cover next year, too. And, with an eye on these forecasts, Agriculture Secretary Anderson is not expected to ask farmers to cut production in 1948.

The number of acres farmers will be asked to plant to winter and spring wheat next fall and spring is due to be announced later this month. No figures have been made public yet, but officials close to Anderson say he is thinking in terms of around 70 million acres. That's about the same as the goal set for this season.

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THE HARVEST of this year's wheat has reached the hold-your-breath stage. It's getting started in the Southwest now--will be in full swing within 10 days. If the weather remains clear and dry, by far the biggest crop on record will be garnered. But heavy rains now could bring tremendous losses. Ripe, unharvested wheat can be knocked to the ground by rain; and the combines and reapers can't pick it up. Also much threshed grain is certain to be piled on the ground this year; and rain hitting it there could bring much spoilage.

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GREASE WASTAGE in home kitchens worries Washington officials charged with watching fats and oils. Government publicity encouraging housewives to resume wartime saving will be stepped up soon. Latest official figures (Jan. 1) showed total fats and oils stocks about 25% below a year earlier.

From Philadelphia (Pa.) Inquirer, May 27, 1947 -

TO SOLVE FOOD SHORTAGES -- Editorial -- The International Emergency Food Council has done well to call a special cereal conference, as suggested by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson to explain the gravity of the world food situation.

From all reports another year of serious shortages is ahead for many European countries. The United States is able to share its grain in substantial measure, as it has been doing for some time past. But the whole problem of feeding Europe's hungry should be worked out to a more orderly solution.

For one thing, it is increasingly necessary that countries seeking our help make every effort to supply a larger part of their cereal requirements from their own or nearby areas. A more vigorous attempt should be made to promote self-help by the needy countries.

Only by real cooperation -- and real planning and economy by countries facing further grave food shortages -- will the tremendous issue of famine in Europe be met.

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From Billings (Mont.) Gazette, May 21, 1947 -

OVERPRODUCTION AGAIN LOOMS -- Editorial -- It is predicted that American farmers will produce this year the greatest wheat crop on record, in excess of one billion, 200 million bushels. That will mean a surplus over domestic requirements of 400,000,000 bushels or more. Under existing conditions, this huge surplus will be easily disposed of to the famine areas in other parts of the globe. Much of it will be given away by our government but the growers of that staple will not suffer from that method of disposal. They will receive for their crop in excess of three billion dollars.

This condition will doubtless prevail for at least another crop year but when the other nations begin to recover from the ravages of war and are more nearly meeting their own needs, this country will again be faced by the perplexing problem of what to do with its surplus grain and other agricultural products. It may then be necessary to revert to some of the policies adopted and followed during the years immediately following the depression in 1929. One of those policies was paying subsidies for acreage reductions.

One new deal policy, fathered by then Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace which will be rejected was that of destroying food products. There will be no more slaughtering of little pigs.

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From the Worcester (Mass.) Telegram, May 24, 1947 -

THE FARMER IS WARNED -- Editorial -- On the heels of President Truman's recent warning about farm inflation, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson has called a conference of farm leaders and agricultural loan executives to be held in Washington June 9 and 10 to discuss the problem of soaring farm land values. Mr. Anderson expressed grave concern over the fact that current farm real estate prices are now 92 percent above the 1935-39 average, said this presented a serious future problem, and urged "voluntary" methods to halt the upward trend.

Mr. Truman should be concerned with the inflationary spiral in farm land values, but, to use an old farm expression, his belated concern now is rather like locking the barn after the horse is stolen. With 1948 not so far away, the Administration is doing considerable tub-thumping for voluntary reductions of this price and that price, but economists know that the forces which brought about the present inflation were unleashed, and encouraged, by the Washington administration.

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From the Fargo (N.D.) Forum, May 21, 1947 -

HITS PROPOSED FARM LAND PRICE PARLEY - Washington - (UP) - Sen. Harlan J. Bushfield (R-SD) protested in the senate Tuesday against a conference on farm land prices called for June 9 by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson at the request of President Truman.

"President Truman's proposal to call a conference of farm leaders for the purpose of setting a ceiling price on farm land prices is ill-conceived and, in my opinion, can only result in damage to the farmers of America," Bushfield told the senate.

Noting that Mr. Truman compared present prices with 1935-39 levels, Bushfield said the increase was not "inflationary" but rather a return to "normalcy" from abnormal lows. He said farm prices are much lower than the 1920 peak.

"I hope that the president and the secretary of agriculture will be better advised than to attempt a continuation of the office of price control upon farm lands," Bushfield said.

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From the Greenville (S.C.) News, May 23, 1947 -

FARM PRICES AND DEBT -- Editorial -- Despite the high percentage rise in the price of farm lands since pre-war years, it is a fact of interest that neither in South Carolina nor in the country as a whole, on the average, have these prices reached the levels attained just after the first World War.

For the country as a whole, the percentage of rise in prices since 1939 has been greater than that from 1914 to 1920. But the 1939 level was not so high as that of 1914.

Yet this sharp rise since 1939 should contain a warning now against too heavy assumption of mortgage debt in buying farm lands at these prices. As is pertinently pointed out by Dr. M.C. Rochester, Clemson extension economist, prospective purchasers of farm lands should realize that future earnings are more important than present or past earnings in determining land values. Any drastic decline in the future prices of agricultural products may make a present seemingly small indebtedness greater than the full market value of the farm would be a few years later.

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From the Kansas City (Mo.) Star -- May 21, 1947

CARS TO MOVE THE WHEAT -- Editorial -- Somehow the railroads will have to handle the movement of the Mid-West's billion-bushel wheat crop, a record yield, between now and the end of the harvesting in July. The railroads concede they will be hard-pressed to transport the grain on schedule. For the critical shortage of boxcars has been eased only slightly since a Senate hearing served to focus nation-wide attention on its importance earlier this year.

The railroads report they have built up a reserve of freight cars in the wheat-growing region. Eastern lines, often accused in the past of hanging onto an unfair share of the available rolling stock have been ordered by the Association of American Railroads to turn over more cars to the western roads during the harvest.

Seaboard industrial interests have objected to the routing of rail equipment away from the East. But their concern over a possible delay in shipping some factory products has been outweighed by the urgency of transporting grain to feed the United States and permit government exports to the world's needy countries.

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From New York Times, June 2 -

FRENCH FOOD RISE IN 1946 REPORTED: CONTINUED PROGRESS THIS YEAR SHOWN IN NATIONAL CITY AND COUNTRY SURVEY--Paris--After extensive nutritional studies conducted throughout France the bulletin of the National Hygiene Institute reported today that France had made important progress during 1946.

However, in the last quarter a setback was registered, ascribed to the enforced reduction of expenditures for food because of the price increases. Since then the upward trend in prices has been somewhat halted but a serious wheat crisis expected to last through the greater part of the next fourteen months has developed and will cause a slackening of the trend toward recovery.

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BRITISH TO STUDY PEANUTS: MISSION WILL SURVEY WEST AFRICA FOR LARGE-SCALE PRODUCTION--London--A British Government mission will leave shortly for West Africa to investigate the possibilities of large-scale mechanized production of peanuts, the Colonial Office announced today.

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GOVERNMENT TRIES TO SET SILK VOGUE: CAN CUT COSTS OF OCCUPYING JAPAN IF WOMEN GO BACK TO IT--DRIVE IS PLANNED--Washington--The Government is trying to sell to American women the idea of wearing silk again. Its motives are not to make the ladies more beautiful but to reduce the costs of occupying Japan. The United States Commercial Company, a subsidiary of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, which has the job of selling Japanese raw silk here, plans to start a big promotion program to win over the women.

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BUYER RESISTANCE AFFECTS CLOTHING: COMMERCE DEPARTMENT FINDS ACTION AGAINST HIGH PRICES ALSO FELT IN TEXTILE TRADE--Washington--The effect of buyer resistance, attributed to the rise in prices, is being felt by manufacturers of clothing and textile products, the Department of Commerce reported today.

A Department analysis showed that manufacturers in some branches of the industry, notably in soft woolen goods and women's apparel, are cutting output already. It noted, however, that this reduced production came at a time when many of the clothing shortages of the past year are being relieved.

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From New York Herald Tribune, June 2 -

THE WOOL TARIFF - Editorial - With legislation to raise the tariff on wool still pending in Congress, Secretary Marshall has intervened to express his concern over the effects such action would have on American foreign policy. "Wool is a symbol of our intentions in foreign trade," he said, warning that the success of the international trade discussions in Geneva would be jeopardized by adoption of a bill, already passed by the House, permitting an increase up to 50% in import levies on wool. At Geneva the U.S. has been advocating a reduction of international barriers. The House action was a source of considerable embarrassment to American delegation.

From the Wall Street Journal, June 2, 1947 -

ARGENTINE WHEAT SHIPMENTS INCREASED - Shipments of wheat from the Argentine established a new high for the season this past week, amounting to 3,417,000 bu., compared with 1,624,000 bu. in the previous week and with 272,000 bu. in the corresponding week last year.

The past week's clearances were distributed as follows: To United Kingdom, 834,000 bu.; Continent, 1,389,000 bu., and to non-Europe, 1,194,000 bu.

From January 1 to date, wheat shipments from the Argentine aggregated 29,- 462,000 bu. This compares with 21,745,000 bu. during the corresponding period last year.

From the Baltimore Sun, June 2, 1947 -

COOL SPRING HITS PLANTING; SOWING OF VITAL GRAINS HAS BEEN HAMPERED, Washington, June 1 (AP) - A wet cool spring has hampered seriously the sowing of such vital grains as corn, oats and barley, officials reported today, and delayed the planting of soybeans, an important source of scarce food fats.

The result, they contend, is to emphasize President Truman's requests that Congress continue for another year the Government's authority to control the export of scarce foods, now scheduled to expire June 30.

From the Chicago Daily Tribune, June 2, 1947 -

GERMANS GAIN IN WEIGHT DESPITE FOOD SHORTAGE, Berlin, (AP) - The average weight of adult city dwellers in the American zone increased during April, a month of critical food shortage, indicating many Germans obtained food from "off-the-ration" sources, the American military government said today.

The AMG's public health branch said its street weighing check on the Germans' nutritional status disclosed that a trend toward weight declines evidenced in March was arrested during April.

FAMINE STALKS INDIA; RATION CUT THREATENED; GRAIN BADLY NEEDED TO COMBAT HUNGER, New Delhi, India, (Reuters) - India's larder, never adequately stocked since 1942 when an annual shipment of 2,000,000 tons of rice from southeast Asia was cut off, is emptying fast.

The country is heading towards a food crisis which not even one of the most efficient rationing administrations in the world can stave off unless the trickle of grain imports is swollen into a heavy flow within the next few months.

The 150,000,000 persons now registered for rations--12 ounces for adults and six ounces for children--are threatened with a cut.

From the New York Herald Tribune, June 2, 1947 -

IMPORT QUOTA RISE URGED FOR LONG STAPLE COTTON - Cotton mills specializing in thread and certain types of fine goods are faced with shutdowns unless immediate action is taken to increase the quota on imports of Egyptian extra long staple length cotton, according to a statement issued by the Cotton-Textile Institute..

From Omaha (Nebr.) World Herald, May 25 -

BOXCAR LACK TO BE WORSE; REED CITES BIG WHEAT CROP AS PROBLEM - With the 1947 wheat crop estimated at an all-time high, the nation's tight boxcar situation once more is under close scrutiny.

"The size of the crop this year will present more difficulties than ever before," says Senator Reed (Rep. Kans.) an acknowledged transportation expert.

"Right now there simply are not enough cars to go around," admits the Association of American Railroads, but . . . "the record is they (the railroads) are moving more freight more miles than ever before in peace-time."

The AAR actually is the big mogul in the distribution of boxcars, because the chairman of its Car Service Division is the duly authorized agent of the Interstate Commerce Commission, which by law is vested with distributing authority.

And the AAR doesn't like sly hints that its Western members are in revolt against the association because it is dominated by the Eastern lines.

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From Boise (Idaho) Statesman, May 23 -

RAILROAD AGENT CITES POSSIBLE CAR SHORTAGE - Abnormal grain movement throughout the United States this harvest period will lead to a shortage of railroad rolling stock to handle the crop, Kay L. Johnson, general agent for the Union Pacific, said here Thursday.

He said the shortage would be reflected in Idaho when it came time to begin shipping grain from the western part of the state around July 1.

But said Johnson, a slow movement of grain would enable Idaho and the rest of the nation "to get by in good shape."

At the present time, he said, railroads are "strong box cars," in contrast to some periods last year when there were insufficient cars to handle the freight load.

The government, said Johnson, expects a billion bushel grain harvest, and the impact of moving this crop, or part of it, probably won't be felt until about July 1.

He said abnormal grain movement and consequent car shortages would result if growers attempt to move their product direct from the fields to terminal markets.

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From Salt Lake City (Utah) Tribune, May 23 -

GULF IN FARM PRICES LAID TO INEFFICIENCY; DISCREPANCY IN COST LINKED TO NUMBER HANDLING PRODUCE - One of the main reasons a wide gulf exists between prices paid farmers for produce and the price consumers pay is marketing inefficiency, R. Harvey Dastrup, state commissioner of agriculture, declared Thursday.

"In too many instances, far too many identities have contact for profit with the product involved prior to its reaching the final consumer," he asserted. An efficient marketing system would eliminate many of the intermediate hands in the long distance between farm and market, he opined.

Handlers of foodstuffs do not charge exorbitantly necessarily, he said, but efficiency in the marketing field would eliminate some of the final consumer cost, he said.

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From Bakersfield Californian, May 19 -

FARM LAND PRICES - Editorial - Farmers, economists, veterans who would like to be farmers, and banks and real estate agencies will follow closely the proceedings of a conference of government and private lending agencies and farm leaders in Washington June 9 on the subject of the present dangerous inflation of farm land prices.

The meeting has been called by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson at the suggestion of President Truman, who declared he is deeply concerned over the level of farm real estate and is anxious to prevent a collapse such as that which followed World War I and brought ruin to thousands of farmers.

Figures quoted by the President show that farm land values now stand at 92 per cent above the 1935-39 average. They have increased 12 per cent since March, 1946. Economists generally agree that the present prices cannot be sustained by probable long-time farm earnings and in this case, are entirely out of line with farm earnings of record. Continuance of this situation will be disastrous to farmers.

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From Chicago Sun, May 26 -

BAA, BAA, BLACK SHEEP - Editorial - Wool growing accounts for an infinitesimal fraction of this country's national income. Even in the biggest wool-producing states, income from that product represents less than 2 or 3 per cent of the total income. Yet for the sake of this minor economic interest, the House passed a bill which threatens the success of the Geneva trade conference, now under way, for the reduction of world tariff barriers.

The ostensible purpose of the bill, which has already passed the Senate, is to continue for two years more the wartime device by which the government became the sole buyer of American wool. But it involves a much more fundamental issue, nothing less than the future of our entire world economic policy.

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From Little Rock (Ark.) Gazette, May 25 -

THOSE KEROSENE POTATOES AND FEDERAL LAW - Editorial - In these times of food shortage and high prices, the federal Production and Marketing Administration dumped 11,500 bushels of potatoes in the woods in Alabama and deliberately ruined them with kerosene. But a PMA representative said that the men who are complaining in Washington about the destruction of these potatoes are the ones who made the law under which potatoes are destroyed to keep prices up. These were surplus B-size potatoes.

The government guarantees the farmer 90 per cent of parity for all potatoes, he produces. When there is not sufficient demand for potatoes at support prices the Agriculture Department buys the surplus supplies, although we are told that efforts are made to make use of potatoes bought by the government.

It might naturally be said that the government should have given these potatoes away instead of destroying them. But a PMA spokesman in Alabama said, "We can't give these potatoes away."

When the government undertakes to keep up the price of a farm product it can't let surpluses of this product be dumped on the market. It can't even give away such surpluses.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, June 4 -

**GRAIN COMMITMENTS MET** - Stuttgart - General Clay disclosed today that 340,000 tons of wheat and flour had been shipped to Germany from the United States since May 1. Despite the "terrific strain" on shipping facilities and the refusal of other countries to permit a divergence of their grain allocations to Germany, he said, the United States more than kept its promise to supply at least 300,000 tons of grain in May.

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**CUSTOMS TARIFF PARLEY STILL SPEEDING IN GENEVA** - Geneva, Switzerland - A spokesman of the International Trade Conference said today that the progress of bilateral bargaining for a mutual reduction of customs tariffs was well up to schedule and that the negotiations were proceeding at substantial speed.

Progress on the drafting of amendments to the world trade charter is also satisfactory, the spokesman said. He added that no major snag that could not be removed by amicable discussion had been struck.

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**MORE SUGAR GRANTED TO FOOD PROCESSORS** - Washington - The Agriculture Department increased sugar allowances today for food processors and canners as a Senate banking subcommittee scheduled a hearing for tomorrow on a bill to end sugar rationing immediately.

The department raised the allowance for most fruit canners from 90 to 100 per cent of what they used in 1941. Some other canners whose basic allowance has been below the industry average received the promise of an increase to bring them in line with the average.

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From New York Journal of Commerce, June 4 -

**BANKERS HIT FEDERAL FARM PROGRAM** - Washington - Representative Poage (Dem., Tex.) complained today he's tired of hearing witnesses at hearings on a long range agricultural program talk about savings while "nobody tells us just where it can be done."

He addressed his remarks to C. W. Bailey, president of the American Bankers Association, who had suggested to the House Agriculture Committee that economics could be achieved through consolidation and elimination of Government agencies supplying farm credit.

"I agree," Poage told Bailey, "that savings should be made, but please specify exactly which functions should be cut. Generalizations are not worth the paper they are written on."

Bailey replied that he was "not prepared" at this time to make specific recommendations. He added that other witnesses would do so.

John N. Thomson, vice president of the Bank of Centerville, S.D., and a representative of the American Bankers Association, then told the committee that elimination of direct Government lending, except possibly for "disaster loans," should be "a goal to be attained as rapidly as possible."

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From New York Journal of Commerce, June 4 -

REFINED SUGAR DEMAND HEAVY - Demand for refined sugar among wholesalers and retailers is reported to be pouring in to refiners, and considerable of a pickup in demand for bulk sugar from industrial users is developing. While refiners only a few weeks ago were being snowed under by the surpluses accumulating in their plants and warehouses for lack of demand, the rate of orders being submitted is now giving them concern for they are several weeks behind in their shipments.

What occurred is that wholesalers and large retailers as well as industrial users became overly conscious of inventory positions and allowed their limited supplies to become exhausted. Now everyone is rushing to the refiner with an order and expecting that it will be shipped on the same day.

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WILL OPPOSE BILL TO DECONTROL SUGAR - Washington - Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson and Sugar Rationing Administrator James Marshall are expected to oppose immediate decontrol of sugar rationing at a Senate hearing tomorrow, on the grounds that insufficient information is currently available to take such a step now.

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URGES REVISION OF SUGAR QUOTA ACT - Immediate action by Congress to revise sugar quota legislation and increase the quota the United States permits Cuba to furnish to consumers here, as recommended by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson and Secretary of State George C. Marshall, is urged by the United States Cuban Sugar Council in its news bulletin just published.

A bill to extend the sugar quota act for an additional year, until Dec. 31, 1948, has been introduced in the House of Representatives and referred to the Agriculture Committee.

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DEPRESSION IN US VIEWED UNLIKELY - Washington - The Congressional Economic Committee, headed by Senator Robert A. Taft (Rep., Ohio), today said a survey of business expectations for 1947 "does not give any real support to the theory that we are nearing a depression."

Announcing public hearings beginning June 23, at which business, labor and other groups will be heard, the Congressional Economic Committee reported the substantial completion of a survey covering business leaders in manufacturing, mining, construction, transportation, finance and insurance and the wholesale and retail trade.

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From New York Wall Street Journal, June 4 -

NEW RAIL REFRIGERATOR CAR NEEDS NO ICE FOR ZERO TEMPERATURES; GETS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT 'OK' - Washington - A reefer revolution is on the way. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has tested and pronounced "OK" a new type of railroad transportation refrigerator car which will maintain zero temperatures without the use of ice. It appears likely to break a transportation bottleneck that has plagued the frozen food industry almost from the day of its birth.

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From the Capital, Topeka, (Kans.), May 25, 1947

NO GOOD CAN COME OF FERTILIZER DRIVE: AUTHOR RAPS PLOW, COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER AS RUINERS OF SOIL - Edward H. Faulkner, whose sensational book "Plowman's Folly" attacked the moldboard plow as the villain that causes depleted soil, in his new book "A Second Look," published by the University of Oklahoma Press, takes commercial fertilizers to task.

"Plowman's Folly," which was characterized by Time magazine as being "one of the most revolutionary ideas in agricultural history," sold 340,000 copies and started a controversy that still rages. His new book threatens to be equally controversial because he strikes directly at the fertilizers industry.

"Currently," he says, "farmers are being urged to use still greater quantities of lime and other 'aids' as a means of repairing the damage alleged to have been done to their soils by the extra production made necessary by the war. No permanent good can come of this campaign, and much real harm may result."

Faulkner, who has recently completed an intensive tour of experiment stations and agricultural colleges, could find "no answer, so far as I have been able to learn, to my argument that the earth is self-sufficient for nourishing the life it develops. I am sure that there is no refutation possible."

The incorporation of profuse organic materials into the surface of the soil is all that is necessary to start natural processes toward releasing minerals from the soil and to put even the most depleted soils back into full and natural production. He claims that the soil provides within root reach enormous tonnages of all the minerals that plants require.

Furthermore, the natural plant foods thus manufactured in the soil will make crops much more immune to plant disease and insect devastation.

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From the Post-Gazette, Pittsburgh, (Pa.), May 26, -

THE WOOL TARIFF-Editorial-By approving the wool-grab bill last Friday, the House of Representatives may have torpedoed the Geneva trade conference. Certainly we must seem either scheming hypocrites or hopeless fools to the 18 nations with which we have been talking about freeing world trade.

For while our State Department officials have been urging an end to preferential tariffs and bilateral dealing, our isolationist and selfish congressmen have voted to continue wholesale subsidies for the wool-growing industry and to raise tariffs on imports of wool--most of which comes from the British Empire.

The wool-grab bill, which has already been passed by the Senate, does just about everything we have been trying to stop other nations from doing. Not only does it keep the present high tariff on wool, but it instructs the President to raise this barrier whenever imports are found to be reducing the amount of domestic fiber produced.

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From the Constitution, Atlanta, (Ga.), May 27 -

INFLATED FARM LAND PRICES-Editorial-Although it is obvious that present excessive prices for farm products cannot long continue, the price of farm lands has not yet shown any tendency to come down into the realm of reality. Land prices here in Georgia and elsewhere are based on the high prices and high profits farmers have been earning during the past few years, but do not reflect the real long-term value of the farms through good times and bad.

From Detroit (Mich.) Free Press, May 27, 1947 -

CONTRADICTION IN POTATOES - Editorial - The recent picture and news story of the destruction by Government officials of 50 tons of potatoes in Alabama has created a wave of public indignation scarcely equaled in recent times.

And very rightly so!

For accompanying news dispatches tell of potato shortages in several regions of the United States. In Richmond, Va., for example, the lack of potatoes in the markets was so acute that carloads were rushed in from Canada and sold for fancy prices. And at the same time, the Government was buying up and destroying potatoes on farms within 30 miles of Richmond.

It is such instances as these that make the public seriously doubt the reports of the Government that potatoes cannot be shipped economically for the relief of famine in foreign countries. They can be shipped to the United States from Canada at premium prices for Canadian growers.

The cost of destroying United States grown potatoes in order to keep the price up is \$80,000,000. Yet President Truman in one breath says prices are too high and in the other that taxes cannot safely be cut.

Quite obviously, under the kind of an agricultural program that his Administration is supporting, there is no chance for either lower prices or taxes.

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From the New Orleans (La.) Times-Picayune, May 26, 1947 -

COTTON KILLER? - Editorial - The first setback to the chemical phase of the state's campaign against excess waterway vegetation is reported from the Ouachita-Morehouse parish section, where an estimated 2000 acres of cotton crops along Bayou Bartholomew were reportedly destroyed by a 2,4-D spray. The weed-killer, developed by the United States bureau of agricultural research has hitherto proved, in experiments and in control work conducted by army engineers and state wildlife authorities, an effective slayer of water hyacinth and alligator grass, yet harmless to rice and sugar cane crops. Whether the hyacinth or some other form of clogging vegetation was being attacked on Bayou Bartholomew is not clear, but considerable injury may have been done to public reception of the program as well as to the farmers affected near Monroe.

According to Dr. Clair Brown, Louisiana State University agronomist, cotton is among the plants extremely susceptible to slight quantities of this rather mysterious blighter of growth processes. That being known, as well as the ever-present possibility of a drifting of poison-spray aerially applied, an answer seems very much in order to the blunt question: "How come?"

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From Louisville (KY.) Courier-Journal, May 27, 1947-

AN OVERLOOKED REASON FOR HIGH FOOD PRICES - Editorial - There is a lot of more or less scientific discussion of high prices and the reasons for them. Some of these reasons, quite clear to the professional economist, are beyond the ken of the man on the street--things like the great increase in money supply because of the war and the Government's need to borrow tremendously. The very flood in which money poured out tended to cheapen it, and this means inflation.

But it strikes us that there are other things, too. Where food prices are concerned, a swift glance at a report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture finds some light. Our own eating, as well as the necessity of sending food abroad and thus shortening our supply, is not to be overlooked. The country has got into the habit of eating more and better than ever before. Its demands are having their effect.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For June 5, 1947)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, June 5 -

ANDERSON OPPOSES END OF SUGAR CURB: BUT HE SAYS U.S. IS 'VERY CLOSE TO POINT' WHERE RATIONING CAN BE ENDED-Washington-Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture, informed the Senate Banking Subcommittee of Sugar today that the country is "very close to the point" where household rationing of the product can be ended but said it was "much safer" to continue controls for the present.

He insisted that the nation's supply must be assured and stable before decontrol can be undertaken and expressed fear of what might happen if rationing were ended at this time.

"With the present very low price of sugar," he said, "many might be led to lay in large supplies to protect themselves against the price situation for the next year."

His testimony was given at a hearing on a bill proposing immediate decontrol.

Mr. Anderson's position and figures were challenged by Walter S. Mack, president of the Pepsi-Cola Company, who said the United States could count on 10,000,000 tons of sugar for the current year, enough to permit immediate decontrol.

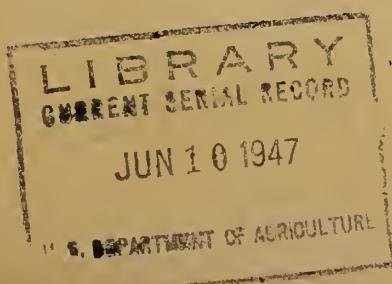
He said that the Department of Agriculture, which recently assured housewives of thirty five pounds of sugar with the prospect of a further allotment for canning, seeks to perpetuate controls by "dumping sugar on the housewife." He charged the average housewife could not use this sugar, but was buying it to use up stamps.

Mr. Mack's figures were attacked by James H. Marshall, director of the Sugar Branch of the Department of Agriculture. He said they were too high in most instances.

In support of his position, the Secretary said the country was assured 6,800,000 tons of sugar for the calendar year, enough to give the average American about 90 percent of what he consumed in prewar days.

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GRAINS CONTROLS BACKED: SCHILTHUIS OFFERS THE VIEWS OF EXPORT ASSOCIATION-Washington-William C. Schilthuis, vice president of the North American Export Grain Association, said today it recognizes a need for continued Government controls over exports of grain. He gave the association's views to a Senate Judiciary subcommittee, which is studying possible extension of the Export Control Act which expires June 30, and Mr. Schilthuis suggested an extension so far as grains are concerned, until Dec. 31.



Farm Digest 1215-47

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, June 5 -

CUBA THREATENS SUGAR EXPORT CURB: PRODUCTION TO MAY 31 at 6,209,000-Cuba is planning to halt all sugar shipments to the United States after July 31 unless the United States acts to increase Cuba's share of the United States market under the sugar quota system, diplomatic officials in Washington said yesterday.

The sugar act of 1937 comes up soon either for revision or extension in its present form for another year. The Cubans feel that unless some recognition is given to them for their performance in making sugar supplies available during the war years at relatively low prices this year, their record a year hence will be forgotten.

Cuba to May 31 produced 6,208,940 short tons, raw value, according to figures received by cable from Cuba yesterday. Ninety seven mills have finished grinding, leaving 64 still operating.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON HARD HIT BY WORMS-Cairo-Egypt is suffering its worst cotton worm attack in a quarter of a century.

About 1,000,000 acres have been hit by the worms and the situation is described by agricultural officials as "very bad." Cotton in the Delta was a main target.

Abdel Aziz Salem Bey, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture said the Government has mobilized more than a million laborers throughout Egypt to clear the leaves of worms.

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ASKS US ENCOURAGE FERTILIZER INDUSTRY-Washington-The importance of encouraging rather than discouraging private enterprise by the Federal Government was stressed by Louis Ware, president of International Minerals & Chemical Corp., in testimony today before the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Mr. Ware appeared before the committee in connection with hearings on a bill to establish a Government fertilizer plant as provided in the proposed National Soil Fertility Act of 1947.

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SUGAR RATION RISE DENIED FOR DRUGS-Washington-The Government today formally denied an industry appeal for a 20 percent boost in sugar allocations to the entire drug manufacturing industry.

In a letter to the American Drug Manufacturers Association, Irving Rice, administrator of the sugar rationing administration, denied that the pharmaceutical industry is already receiving preferential treatment in sugar allotments and that the Government has not found a shortage of sugar containing medicinals to exist today.

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From Wall Street Journal, June 5 -

FOOD CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN PARIS THIS SUMMER-Washington-Paris has been chosen as the site of an international food conference to be held this summer. Its aim is to help European shortage areas plan better management of their own supplies.

The conference will be sponsored by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Emergency Food Council.

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Farm Digest 1125-47-2

From Chicago Tribune, May 27 -

WORLD BEGGING GRAIN; SPURNS U. S. POTATOES; REFUSES TO PAY FOR COST OF DRYING - Washington - Europe is starving and wants 5 million tons (180 million bushels) of grain from the United States and Canada, but it won't take our surplus potatoes even if we offer them for only the cost of dehydrating them -- about 14 cents for 10 pounds of raw potatoes.

This paradox today was offered the international emergency food council attended here by 34 nations. A bizarre picture was portrayed of wide-spread hunger and possible rioting abroad while the United States buys up thousands of bushels of good potatoes to support the market, dumps them and leaves them to rot.

D. A. FitzGerald, secretary general of the food council, told the delegates the world's food stocks were at the lowest ebb. In perhaps 12 countries the situation is so precarious a delay of harvest of so much as a week could be the deciding factor, he said, on whether rationing systems break down.

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From Denver (Colo.) Post, May 26 -

A SHAMEFUL POLICY - Editorial - There's sense to the anti-waste bill introduced by Senator Johnson of Colorado. His measure would make it a criminal offense for any government official to order the destruction of food-stuffs merely to maintain the price level of a commodity.

A federal policy of spending millions of dollars to maintain high prices at a time when the president is pleading for price reductions is bad enough. But when it is coupled with a practice of destroying food surpluses, as was done last year in the case of potatoes, for example, congress certainly should pass a law to stop such wanton waste.

The scarcity method of promoting prosperity is all wrong. If any restrictions are going to be placed on production, those should be imposed voluntarily by producers themselves and not by government mandate. It is morally wrong and should be legally a crime for government officials to destroy food to keep prices at a high level.

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From Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger - May 25 -

RECORD HIGH PORK PRICES SEEN AS A FALL POSSIBILITY - Editorial - Chicago reports an alarming prediction that pork prices may set a new high record next fall and winter, and the source of the prophecy enhances its impressiveness.

This is not a prophecy by any organization of hog producers, any trader who might be biased, any market expert or economist, nor even by any government agencies. The American Veterinary Medical Association, meeting in Chicago, sponsors the prophecy.

The veterinarianians foresee rising pork prices because of a pork scarcity next fall and winter resulting from "tremendous losses in the spring baby pig crop." Association spokesmen said that in some localities, baby pig losses ranged up to 75 percent, about three times the normal fatality rate.

That doesn't make pleasant reading for anybody, the hog raisers, the packing house people, or the consumers.

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From San Diego (Calif.) Union, May 24 -

TO PROHIBIT POTATO BURNING - Editorial - The national administration seems to find it impossible to wean itself away from the original New Deal economic policy of killing off little pigs and plowing under crops. Senator Johnson of Colorado and Senator Murray of Wisconsin have felt it necessary to introduce a bill to forbid the burning of potatoes by agencies of the federal government. Their action was prompted by the recent destruction of several million bushels of potatoes in Alabama. Although attracting less attention, vast quantities of this staple vegetable have been burned by government order in California and Idaho.

The government's excuse for this wholesale destruction of food is that it must protect the market price of potatoes by preventing any substantial surplus. On two separate occasions it has followed the same course by destroying hundreds of carloads of eggs. At the present time Uncle Sam has some 400-odd million pounds of wool on his hands, bought to stabilize the price.

Back of all this sort of conniving is the New Deal idea that "the government knows better how to run the agriculture of the country than the individuals who have made it their life job. Once you start a program of interference and trying to regulate nature there is no end to complications.

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From La Crosse (Wis.) Tribune, May 25 -

FARM LAND PRICES - Editorial - Possibly, as some government financial experts are reported to believe, President Truman's concern over farm land prices has come too late.

If they are right in believing that inflation has run its course, there is a possibility that declining prices of farm products will automatically correct the situation.

But the conference of bankers, insurance company directors, farm organization officials and government representatives called by the president can serve a useful purpose. The fact that the administration has thus emphasized the problem should be helpful. It constitutes a warning to potential buyers of farm properties to look before their leap.

Mr. Truman's letter to Secretary of Agriculture Anderson makes it clear that he is worried about farmers and particularly veterans, who are "going heavily into debt to purchase farms at inflated prices."

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From San Antonio (Tex.) Express, May 26 -

FREE FARMERS AND OPPORTUNITY - True farmers and forest industries in Texas face an incomparable opportunity: Together they can develop and support a great integrated system of wood-using enterprises that would apply the processes worked out, or perfected, at Texas Forest Products Research Laboratory in Lufkin. Those wills would utilize the cellulose lignin and wood sugars which Nature stores abundantly in pines, gums, oaks, elms, ash, maples and other trees. So writes Victor H. Schoffelmayer, chairman of Texas Chemurgic Council, pointing to the forests as "the State's most valuable renewable natural resource."

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A2D14 DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For June 6, 1947)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, June 6,

**YUGOSLAV FOOD AMPLE:** TITO'S AIDS REPORTED TO HAVE BOUGHT ITALIAN GRAIN-Belgrade-The food crisis here has passed with the advent of hot weather and spring vegetables and fruit are plentiful.

However, Yugoslavia overcame the grain shortage by buying wheat in Italy directly from peasants on strictly private deals, authoritative sources said.

Premier Marshal Tito's agents throughout Italy offered high prices to Italians, it is understood.

Through purchasing grain on the black market in Italy, Yugoslavia circumvented United States refusal of aid.

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**BUFFALO MILLS HIT IN GRAIN SHIPTIE-UP:** STRIKE OF 350 PIER SHOVELERS THREATENS COMPLETE SHUTDOWN OF FLOUR OPERATIONS-Buffalo-Picket lines established today by striking grain shovelers halted activities at all twenty waterfront elevators and threatened a full shutdown of operations in the country's biggest flour milling center.

More than 350 grain shovelers who struck Monday for a guaranteed \$50 weekly wage were joined in the work stoppage this morning by nearly 400 grain elevator employes who observed the picket lines.

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**STRIKE TIES PUERTO RICO PIERS:** San Juan-A stevedore strike has halted sugar shipments from all Puerto Rican ports except San Juan and unless it is settled within the next week all cut cane now on the island may be lost, a member of the Association of Sugar Growers said here today.

The strike grew out of wage disputes between stevedores affiliated with the International Longshoremen's Association and some shipping companies. San Juan pier workers are members of the Union De Trabajadores.

Thirty four of the island's thirty seven sugar mills were still grinding, an official said, but storage space was exhausted and more than 400,000 tons of sugar were laying in warehouses and piersheds.

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**AUSTRALIA FOR FREE WOOL:** SPEAKER AT INDUSTRY LUNCHEON DEPLORES TARIFF PROPOSAL-Impostion of the proposed additional fee on wool imports by Congress will do serious harm to the friendly trade relations between this country and Australia, Sir Lloyd Dumas, chairman of the board of Advertiser Newspapers Ltd., South Australia, told a luncheon meeting of the Commerce and Industry Association yesterday. Sir Lloyd pointed out that the Australian Government has cooperated with the United States in its large purchases of textiles made in Japan. Similar cooperation he said, should be forthcoming from the U.S. in not discriminating against Australian wool.

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Farm Digest 1225-47

From "Wall Street Journal, June 6 -

PEGGED PRICES PLAGUE THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC EXPERTS.—Federal Trade Commission investigators study the effect of "fair trade" laws on retail prices. They want to know: (1) If retailers exceed "recommended" manufacturer markups (2) if consumer resistance is really bringing some prices down.

Officials cite recent tire price cuts as proof that even a mild buyers' strike will work—if prices aren't held rigid by fair trade contracts. FTC thinks both men's and women's ready made clothing, how piling up, may be the next victim.

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WOOL TARIFFS in the pending bill won't stick. Legislators may write out the higher duty provision. If they don't Truman veto is certain. Then Congress will rush through another bill, aimed mainly at supporting domestic prices, without the tariff boosting provision.

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ODT SAYS WEST HAS FAIR SHARE OF BOX CARS: JOHNSON TELLS CONGRESSMEN CARS ARE BEING MISSED THERE TO START MOVING THE WHEAT CROP—Washington—western shippers "are getting their fair share of box cars," the director of the Office of Defense Transportation said.

J. Monroe Johnson told a caucus of western Congressmen investigating the current shortage of freight cars: "The west is getting all the cars we can get to it."

"We were and still are massing cars in the west to start moving the southwest wheat crop," he explained.

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NORTHWEST PLANT SHIPS FIRST ALCOHOL MADE OF CHIPS AND SAWDUST: IT'S "FIT TO DRINK" BUT INDUSTRIAL USERS WILL GET IT.—Springfield—Sawdust is being transmuted into high grade alcohol here in the first plant of its kind in the U.S.

Although the equipment is big and complex, the basic idea of the process based on German patents, is simple. Wood cellulose is treated with acids, turning it into simple sugars similar to those in corn syrup. The sugars then are fermented and distilled. The result is 190 proof ethyl alcohol—fit for drinking.

First shipments—8,000 gallons—of sawdust alcohol were made a few days ago to U.S. Industrial Chemical Co. of Chicago. Although it's palatable, all the alcohol produced here probably will go for industrial, not drinking purposes.

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From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, June 6 -

SUGAR DELAYS—The box car shortage is delaying the movement of sugar out of Baltimore, trade sources report. Demand for packaged supplies continues heavy and refiners are two weeks behind on orders. Some firming in prices for off shore refined is noted but there are still quantities available at 8.15c.

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Farm Digest 12 25-47

From Dallas (Tex.) News, May 31 -

IDLE HANGARS URGED FOR WHEAT STORAGE - Austin - Idle airport hangars should be used to store Texas' bumper wheat crop during the current boxcar shortage, Gov. Beauford H. Jester suggested Friday.

The Governor recommended that county agents utilize for wheat storage all empty hangars which have concrete floors and are rainproof.

"Wheat farmers might select individuals to act as warehouse superintendents who would issue receipts to all farmers who are unable to transport their grain by rail but could haul the wheat to hangars by truck," Jester said.

"The situation presents a challenge to the initiative and ingenuity of county agents in the wheat-growing counties of Texas."

The Governor's statement was made after a conference with Chairman Ernest O. Thompson of the Railroad Commission, just back from a Kansas City conference to determine how the record-breaking harvest can best be handled. Wheat already is being gathered in Texas.

Sixteen hundred freight cars daily will be provided for moving the billion-bushel crop in the next ninety days, and a quick turn-around will facilitate the movement of wheat to protective storage, Thompson said.

The program, as outlined by six wheat-state Governors, calls for filling first the elevator's nearest to the fields, and secondly the larger elevators west of the Mississippi, at such points as Amarillo, Wichita Falls, Fort Worth, Kansas City and Minneapolis. Cars traveling west of the Mississippi could be refilled every four or five days, while shipments to Eastern points would require considerably longer, Thompson explained.

Both Thompson and Jester emphasized the importance of getting the big crop under cover quickly, to prevent its spoilage.

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From Lincoln (Nebr.) State Journal, May 29 -

BOX CARS CAN'T MEET STATE NEED - A part of Nebraska's anticipated bumper wheat crop will have to be stored on the ground despite the fact that more box cars will be available, Gov. Val Peterson said Wednesday.

The governor returned from a Kansas City conference, held Tuesday, to report that the railroads are going to send more cars into the midwest area during the harvest period. However, the governor said, due to a larger crop, there will be probably as much wheat piled on the ground this year as last when an estimated 10,000,000 bushels was so handled.

To move wheat from the fields in six midwest states will require 365,000 cars. To help meet the demand, the railroads have agreed to have 17,000 cars available in the area for use as soon as harvesting begins.

The governor suggested to the group that a shuttle service be set up to prevent the loaded cars from being sent to the eastern seaboard. Peterson explained that once the cars cross the Mississippi river they do not return for six or seven weeks.

It was also proposed that a 60 day embargo against shipment of grain east of the Mississippi during the harvest rush be imposed.

Peterson said if this plan is adopted and shuttle service instituted, it will be of great value in moving the crop.

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From New Orleans Times-Picayune, May 27 -

ANOTHER FOOD CONFERENCE - Editorial - Secretary of Agriculture Anderson recommends the summoning of another world food conference, to be held in Europe next July. It would have as its primary purpose the tightening-up of food management "in the countries likely to have another year of shortages." It is prompted, we gather, by crop summaries and estimates foreshadowing another food crisis that may attain starvation proportions in some areas during the weeks or months preceding the 1948 harvest.

Such a conference, suggests Secretary Anderson, should do two things: Explain the "urgent necessity" for conserving imported supplies, to make them last longer; and "discuss food programs for shortage areas with special emphasis upon ways of securing maximum collection of grains from farms in those areas."

These are laudable purposes. Whether they can be accomplished by a world conference we do not know. It appears that earlier food conferences have done little either to increase food production in the famine areas, or to insure maximum collection and fair distribution of foods produced in those areas. These virtual failures help to explain the current food crisis in Germany. Food production has lagged unconscionably in the regions occupied by Western Allies, and distribution according to report has been scandalously unfair.

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From Charlotte (N.C.) Observer, May 30 -

TOBACCO STUDY NOT CHEERFUL; SOLONS FROM TOBACCO STATES CLING TO 'WEAK HOPE' REGARDING BRITISH IMPORTS - Washington - Tobacco-state congressmen will try to maintain tobacco prices close to their 1948 high levels, despite the severe drop in British purchases which is expected to follow the heavy new excise taxes there, Representative J. Bayard Clark of Fayetteville, N.C., said today.

A committee consisting of Representatives Clark and Coolcy of North Carolina and Chapman Gregory and Clement of Kentucky reported to the tobacco-state group the results of their recent conferences with the British ambassador, Lord Inverchapel, in protest against the tax boost.

The ambassador "vigorously denied that the United States dollars acquired through the American loan are being used to buy tobacco in any other country," Clark said. "Britain is not now buying nor does it intend to buy empire or Mediterranean tobacco in the place of American tobacco, which has amounted to five-sixths of all tobacco imported by Britain," he added. The tax will reduce purchases of tobacco from all sources.

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From Louisville (Ky.) Times, May 28 -

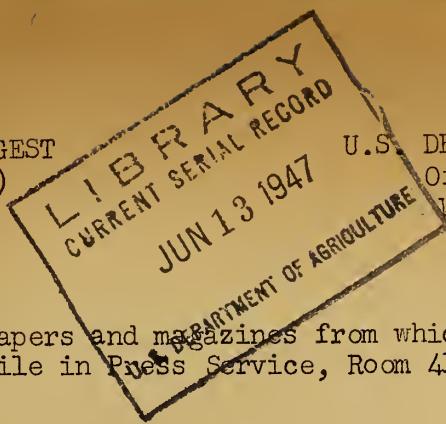
FOR PRACTICAL FARMING - The American Farm Bureau Federation backs a soil fertility bill which is designed to effect systematic examination of soils and application of the right types of fertilizers where fertilization is needed. Inasmuch as it costs as much to fence and to cultivate land which will yield ten bushels of corn to the acre as it does to fence and cultivate land which will yield 100 bushels an acre, nobody can argue reasonably that keeping the land poor, keeping the farmer poor, would be defensible.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For June 10, 1947)



(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, June 10 -

FARM GROUP URGES SOUND LOAN POLICY: TRUMAN CONFERENCE ADVISES BUYING LAND ONLY ON STUDY OF ITS NORMAL EARNINGS-Washington-Fifty leaders in the farm loan field adopted in closed conferences today a general resolution designed to discourage further inflation in farm real estate.

The conference, which had been called by President Truman issued no specific recommendation on the land inflation problem, but against basing long time loans on present abnormal farm prices.

The resolution also counseled against: (1) buying poor land; and (2) putting too much dependence on good weather.

The text of the resolution follows:

"Recognizing the unusual character of the farm income and farm land price situation at the present time, it is agreed that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, state colleges, farm organizations, lending agencies and their associations should discourage borrowing to speculate in farm land, or borrowing to buy land at prices which are not justified by long term income prospects.

"Lending agencies represented at the meeting agree that loans on farm lands should be based on an appraisal of the normal earning capacity of the farm over a long period of years.

"Further it is urged that educational efforts call particular attention to the more rapid rise which has occurred in the prices of farm land of low productivity and land which is hazardous for crop and grazing use.

"Also, emphasis should be placed on the favorable weather in recent years which cannot be expected to continue indefinitely."

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\$300,000,000 BACKED FOR U.S. SCHOOL AID-Washington-A bill authorizing the Federal Government to grant the states \$300,000,000 a year to help equalize educational opportunities was approved today by a Senate Public Welfare subcommittee.

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DEMANDS U.S. CURB EXPORTS OF MEATS: DEALER ASSOCIATION PASSES RESOLUTION TO BE SENT TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN-A resolution urging the curbing of the Government's power to export meat items in short supply was passed yesterday by the New York State Association of Retail Meat Dealers at their annual convention. The resolution stated that copies would be sent to President Truman, the Secretary of Agriculture and other Government officials concerned.

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Farm Digest 1275-47

From New York Times, June 10 -

MEXICAN BEEF TRADE WITH BRITAIN SOUGHT-Mexico City-President Miguel Aleman, in three speeches yesterday said the hoof and mouth disease was the greatest problem in his administration. He exhorted every citizen to fight the disease which has barred exports of cattle to the U.S.

Mexico has taken steps to export meat to Britain. The Ministry of Agriculture believes that restrictions against cattle might not be strict in hungry Britain and that Mexican cattle men might compete with Argentines in sending supplies to the British.

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From Wall Street Journal, June 10 -

A POTATO SHORTAGE may hit American dinner tables next winter-The government, trying to avoid a repetition of last year's huge surplus, has been trying to curb potato acreage this season. It is too early yet to find out how growers are cooperating, but the weather has given over-generous help to the country's fewer potatoes drive.

Planting of late potatoes (those which will be stored for eating next winter) is far behind schedule in Maine, New York, Michigan and Wisconsin. Government spud men say that unless the crop gets started within the next week or two, there is a real possibility of a serious shortage next fall and winter.

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CORN PLANTING delay due to bad weather has now reached the danger point. With the deadline for planting (about June 15) drawing near much of the crop still hasn't gone into the ground. Latest reports from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan say half the expected acreage is yet to be seeded.

Unless this corn is planted within the next week or ten days, it risks being nipped by frost before it matures. Even if not ruined, late corn is often of low quality wet, and of relatively poor feeding value.

Government experts are already counting on their fingers how many bushels of the bumper wheat crop may be available for feed if the inclement spring hacks down corn production.

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MARITIME STRIKE prospects throw a shadow over import commodities. Maritime union contracts expire June 15, and union bosses are demanding more pay. Sugar would probably be in the spotlight if ships were tied up: this is the season of heavy movement of sugar from Cuba.

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From Buffalo (N.Y.) Courier-Express, June 3 -

THE EGG AND YOU - Editorial - You may not like eggs, but you had better begin to like them and eat your full share -- or there will be too many eggs, as there were potatoes and the government had to dispose of them with kerosene, remember? You surely don't want that to happen; so it's up to you. There are 140,000,000 potential egg-eaters in this country and they use an average of 350 eggs each during the year which starts July 1st. Now here's the issue in an eggshell: If they use only one less, or 359, it will cost the government an extra \$5,000,000 to keep egg prices from cracking.

N. E. Dodd, vice-chairman of the board of the Commodity Credit Corp., made that estimate to a House appropriations subcommittee, during hearings on the 1948 Agriculture Department supply bill. He said that the CCC figured the egg production in the next year at 4,800,000,000 dozen. Which suggests that hens are in the lead in responding to the call for full production. The consumer can help save the government that \$5,000,000 as well as the possible embarrassment of having to destroy surplus henfruit, by not declining that extra egg, however fed up he may be with a lot of things.

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From Worcester (Mass.) Telegram, June 1 -

POTATO-SURPLUS INQUIRY - Editorial - Protests about spoilage and deliberate destruction of potatoes have brought action. The House of Representatives has passed a measure directing the House Committee on Agriculture to organize studies and to hold immediate hearings on a "program designed to do away with the annual potato surplus."

Potatoes cannot wisely be shipped overseas for relief purposes unless they are dehydrated. Further, they are not so high in nutritional value as certain other foodstuffs. But those are not good reasons for letting tons of potatoes go unused.

It is to be hoped that the coming inquiry will not result in a mere proposal to curtail potato crops. For there will be no potato "surplus" in the truest sense until all families -- at least in America and in some other countries -- have all the potatoes they want. The people might like more baked potatoes, and fewer half-baked potato plans.

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From Charleston (W. Va.) Gazette, June 2 -

FARMERS ARE WORRIED - Editorial - The farmer is producing more on less acreage and with fewer workers than ever before in this country. While he is making more money now the prices paid him for his products have been going down for some time.

By no means have any considerable part of the decreased prices paid the farmer been carried through to the ultimate consumer. It stands to reason that somewhere along the line some groups are profiteering.

Time was when the farmer almost invariably was a poor man. A large part of the farms were mortgaged and the interest and payments caused them even to go hungry, they couldn't afford to eat their fill of what they raised. Some struggled for years and finally lost their farms and ended their days in the poorhouse.

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From Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, June 2 -

CAR SHORTAGE CONTINUES - Editorial - Reports from railroad circles that there are enough freight cars in this part of the middle west to handle immediate needs should be taken to mean just that. There are cars in the territory to move grain to seaports or milling centers. But this cannot be taken as assurance that the car shortage situation has been solved.

The wheat harvest is beginning in the Texas Panhandle and in northern Oklahoma, southern edge of the hard winter wheat area. Every succeeding estimate places the probable crop total a little higher. At the moment it stands at 1.3 billion bushels, an all-time record.

According to information accumulated by the agriculture department there is less wheat and oats in storage on farms and local elevators than in many years past. There is on the other hand, an unusual reserve of corn in the hands of farmers and feeders, a happy situation with so much livestock to be prepared for market. This means more local storage space for grain than in some recent years. But it will not take long for combines and threshing machines to fill every empty farm bin and local elevator.

This means that freight cars are to be in heavier demand as the harvest progresses than in any recent year. Otherwise valuable grain will be piled on the ground, risking heavy losses. And there are not enough cars available or in prospect to meet the situation.

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From Louisville (Ky.) Times, June 21 -

WHAT A TANGLED WEB - Editorial - The Secretary of the Navy truly says that those who charge labor with the cost of living are as unjust as those who ascribe advances in living cost to business.

The Agriculture Department is in tears because of disposition to charge bolstered farm commodities prices with cost of living; the disposition to batter down, through Congress, the bolsters and the bolstering.

Partisans who charge price levels to the late Franklin D. Roosevelt well might ponder the question: "Would the Government's course have been different under any other President, when war began?"

Government's belief that the only way to get war supplies was to overpay producers; virtually to bribe them, and that the only way to enable the bribed to produce war supplies was to raise wages of their employees resulted in many things, including subsidies to farmers.

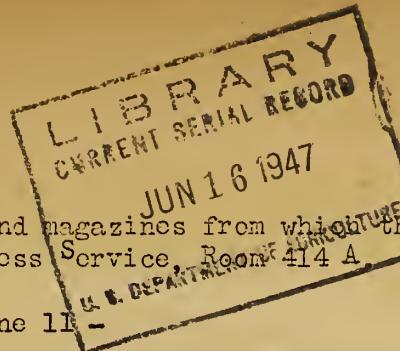
It might be fair to ascribe living cost to circumstances rather than to miscreants or to the misguided. But what a tangled web was woven when the Government slathered money on war supplies producers, assuming that they wouldn't exert themselves as patriots unless they might enrich themselves as profiteers.

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From Columbus (Ohio) Citizen, June 2 -

SOIL CONSERVATION SEEN AS HEALTH AID - "Soil conservation measures building the fertility of Ohio's farm lands can do more to improve peacetime health standards than any other measures," John Sims, general manager of the Farm Bureau Co-operative Association, Columbus, said today. He pointed out that much of the land is depreciating rapidly and steps should be taken to halt further mining of "our greatest natural resource."

Reserve

1/14  
1/14 DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For June 11, 1947)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414 A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, June 11 -

POTATOES OFFERED AT CENT A BUSHEL; BUT SALES BY U. S. ARE LIMITED TO INDUSTRIES, WITH NONE FOR POOR, HOUSE GROUP IS TOLD - Washington - The Agriculture Department informed Congress today it is willing to sell potatoes at 1 cent a bushel for industrial use to prevent dumping of surplus crops.

The offer was made before the House Food Investigating Committee, which is checking on the destruction of surplus potatoes acquired under the Government's price support program. Some in Alabama were doused with kerosene.

S. R. Smith, chief of the department's fruit and vegetable branch, told the committee disposition of the potatoes is his responsibility. The potatoes were destroyed, he said, only after every attempt was made to find a use for them.

"I abhor the destruction of food," he said, "but what can we do?"

"Wouldn't it be better to let poor people come and get those potatoes instead of putting kerosene on them?" asked Representative Charles B. Hovey, Republican, of Iowa.

Mr. Smith replied that "this would seem to be the humane thing to do." But he said that under the support program established by Congress the Government is obliged to remove from the market potatoes that will not bring the designated price.

The price cannot be maintained, he contended by giving away those potatoes to the general public.

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MEAT PRICES PASS BLACK MART PEAK; ADVANCE IS DUE TO COMPETITION FROM BUYERS FOR EUROPE, INDUSTRY COUNCIL SAYS - Meat prices in this city, particularly for the better cuts, are "higher than they were in the black market during the days of the OPA," Jack Kranis, president of the National Meat Industry Council, which claims 25,000 members in eight eastern States and the District of Columbia, asserted yesterday.

A principal reason for the advance is the competition in the wholesale market by buyers for meat-hungry Europe, Mr. Kranis declared. Within the last few weeks, he said, agents for European buyers have been buying everything they could get, and they are willing to pay up to 4 cents a pound more than American buyers are willing to pay.

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BOTES BILL TO END HOME SUGAR LIMIT - Washington - The House Banking and Currency Committee approved today a bill to end immediately the rationing of sugar for home consumption.

The action, members reported, was prompted by considerable improvement in the supply of sugar since the enactment on March 31 of legislation continuing until Oct. 31 the government's authority to ration the commodity.

The new bill, sponsored by Representative Ralph A. Gamble, republican of New York, would have no effect on the March 31 act's continuation of the Government's authority to control sugar prices and to allocate supplies to industrial and institutional users through October.

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From New York Times, June 11 -

BRITISH CUT SMOKES 30%; DALTON REPORTS TO COMMONS ON RESPONSE TO HIS PLEA - London - Britons have clipped their tobacco consumption by 30 per cent since last April's budget, Hugh Dalton, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in the House of Commons today.

JAPAN WARNED ON FOOD; GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OVER WHEAT AND POTATOES FOR USE IN CITIES - Tokyo - The Japanese Government will take approximately one-third of the nation's wheat crop and about one-half of its potatoes for distribution at its potatoes for distribution at fixed prices to feed city populations pending this year's rice harvest, Agriculture Minister Rikizo Hirano announced today.

MISSOURI FLOODS A MILLION ACRES - St. Louis - The Mississippi River receded slightly today after reaching record crests at several communities in eastern Missouri and north central Illinois but downstream communities prepared to fight the flood waters which has engulfed several thousands of acres of rich farm lands.

The Mississippi's great tributary, the Missouri River, was roaring down to join the big stream below St. Louis after inundating nearly one million acres of farm land in central Missouri.

From New York Journal of Commerce, June 11 -

BUYERS' STRIKE "MYTH" - Consumers have not decreased their food product purchases, but have become more selective in their buying, S. G. Barton and Kurt Rogers of Industrial Surveys, Inc., tell Grocery Manufacturers of America meeting at Sktypop, Pa., citing figures on sales gains.

From New York Wall Street Journal, June 11 -

SUGAR DEMAND HEAVY - Demand for packaged sugars continues heavy and cane refiners are about one week to 10 days behind in filling orders, dealers declared yesterday. Household consumers now are using their ration stamps rapidly, in contrast to the slow call for sugar a few weeks ago.

Sugar buying by industrial users is good, but not holding at the rate of packaged inquiry. Refiners are able to meet orders for bulk sugars immediately. Orders from manufacturers, however, are expected to pick up when they obtain their ration checks covering the third quarter allotments.

From Albany (N.Y.) Knickerbocker News, June 4 -

FREIGHT CAR CRISIS PERILS WHEAT CROP - Washington - A new freight car crisis -- the worst in the peacetime history of the nation - is developing with the wheat harvest.

Government officials are bracing themselves against what they regard as an almost impossible situation.

There aren't enough freight cars to move the record-breaking wheat harvest, now beginning in Oklahoma and Texas, and other American commodities. There is no way to produce them in a hurry.

The most optimistic agriculture observers in the capital see little chance of avoiding a drastic, temporary shortage of many commodities, including sugar, and the spoilage of thousands of bushels of wheat.

In addition to the shortage of freight cars to move the wheat sorely needed throughout Europe, there is a shortage of storage space at both ends of the line.

Farm spokesmen are fearful that much of the 1,000,000,000 bushel wheat crop may be left in the fields to rot or have to be burned simply because there is no place to put it.

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From Des Moines, (Iowa) Register, June 4 ..

RECORD WHEAT INCOME SEEN - Washington, D. C. - Harvest of the United States' mammoth 1947 wheat crop has begun under world market conditions that assure farmers of the great plains the highest probable dollar returns in American history.

The first new wheat reaped with combines in south Texas brought reports to Washington that the Texas crop may hit 125 million bushels as compared with 63 million bushels last year. The first new wheat brought \$2.18 a bushel on the farm.

This new wheat was offered in a market where export requirements are running 50 million bushels a month or better, and where government and commercial buyers for export stand ready to buy grain on a virtually "off the farm basis."

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From Milwaukee (Wis.) Journal, June 3 -

PRICE SWINGS IN GRAIN ARE LAID TO U. S. - Less government interference in the grain market would help to eliminate "wildly fluctuating prices," according to Phil S. Hanna, business editor of the Chicago Daily News. He spoke Tuesday at the convention of the Central Retail Feed association.

The government's actions in the grain market have been inconsistent, Hanna declared, adding that "If the government would stop announcing that it will buy in 60 days ahead and buy like any other dealer, it would help to stabilize the market."

Hanna urged greater production at a time when this country "must feed not only itself but the rest of the world." He called for greater imports to enable the present loan programs to work properly.

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From Portland Oregonian, June 1 -

CHLORDANE AGAINST CRICKET - Editorial - A recent dispatch from the battle-front of the Mormon cricket infestation in Umatilla county told how a low-flying plane stopped the advance of the gluttonous insects by use of a new chemical called chlordane. What's chlordane? It is the most recent contribution of the chemist to man's unremitting strife with the pests of field and furrow. The new chemical is described as a chlorinated hydrocarbon, perfected as recently as two years ago. Its lethal action on insects results from contact, ingestion, or from exposure to its vapor. It is possessed of a high toxicity for insects and related arthropods. In its refined form it is a viscous, nearly odorless liquid, and may be used in an oil solution or as a dust.

Experimental work showed that chlordane killed in excess of 95 per cent of grasshoppers in treated crops, with residual effectiveness lasting at least two weeks beyond date of treatment. The contacted insects die immediately. Those not contacted are repelled by the presence of the chemical or are destroyed subsequently either by the vapor or by contact on surfaces over which they crawl. A film of the chemical has been known to be present after several months had elapsed. There is every reason to believe that the compound, discovered by Dr. Julius Hyman of Denver, is of tremendous importance to agriculture.

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From South Bend (Ind.) Tribune, June 1 -

LAND INFLATION - Editorial - Even if the present farm produce prices were to be permanent the prices at which farm lands are being sold in many states, including Indiana, might suggest danger for buyers. In view of the probable produce price declines these land prices are inflationary and those paying them are inviting losses that might be disastrous in some instances. Indeed a possibility is that the entire national economy will be endangered by investments in agricultural land at price levels not justified by the long term produce price outlook.

It is true that the government support of certain farm produce prices is likely to be continued. The most important point, however, is that those prices are guaranteed at levels below the prices at which the commodities are selling in the present markets. In other words substantial price declines are possible, even probable, despite the government support system. The prices paid for some farm lands in the last two years will not be justified if produce prices drop to the government support levels. The government price support seems to be factors in the inflationary farm land price trend but those who have been bidding up land prices because of those supports apparently have seriously miscalculated.

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From Sioux Falls (S.D.) Argus-Leader, June 3 -

WHEN DUST STORMS RETURN TO THIS AREA - Editorial - The United States Department of Agriculture warns that dust storms again will visit the Great Plains states. It doesn't say when. It admits it doesn't know the date. They may come this year or they may not come for 20 years. But, judging from the weather history and cultivating trends, they will come again.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

JUN 1 1947

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, June 12 -

RATIONING OF SUGAR ENDED EXCEPT FOR INDUSTRIAL USE: PRICE OF CONTROLS WILL CONTINUE UNDER ORDER OF ANDERSON, ACTING AFTER ALLOCATION IS INCREASED BY WORLD COUNCIL-Washington-Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson in a sudden move late today ended household and institutional sugar rationing effective at 12:01 a.m. tomorrow. Rationing to industrial users of sugar continues and prices controls on sugar and related products are not affected by the order.

Lifting of rationing at this particular time was due, said Mr. Anderson to today's official announcement by the International Emergency Food Council that the United States would receive 350,000 additional tons of sugar from the Cuban crop. This raises the sugar allocation to the United States this year to 7,150,000 tons and compares with a prewar consumption of sugar in this country of about 6,700,000 tons.

Mr. Anderson said he had hesitated to end sugar rationing before the allocation was made, because he would have been in a weak position asking for more sugar if this country already had enough to go off rationing.

MEAT PRICES HELD NOT DUE TO EXPORT: ANDERSON CHARGES HIGH COSTS TO 'OTHER FACTORS'--DEMAND BY CONSUMERS STRESSED-Washington-Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson denied today that rising meat prices were caused by meat exports. He charged the higher prices to "other factors," but did not specify what they were.

"Export shipments of meat from United States supplies are now so small that they should have no significant effect on domestic meat prices, either at wholesale or retail levels," Mr. Anderson said.

"Allocations for commercial export during the current quarter, the April-June period amount to only about 3 percent of United States production and are far below allocations for the same period last year."

In addition, he said, the general meat supply is good and the prices that the farmers have been receiving for livestock in recent weeks do not warrant the sharp increases that have been reported in retail outlets.

CATTLE PRICES SOARING-Prices of choice cattle soared fifty cents to \$1 today at the Chicago Stock Yards in trading that some observers said had the characteristics of a runaway market. The rise elicited forecasts by spokesmen for the U.S. Department of Agriculture that the price increases probably would mean further advances in wholesale dressed meat costs.

From New York Times, June 12 -

BAVARIA ORDERED TO PROVIDE MEAT: U.S. OFFICIAL ESTABLISHES QUOTAS FOR SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE AND PIGS BY END OF THE YEAR-Munich-The United States Military Government told Bavarian farmers today that they must slaughter 398,000 of their 3,000,000 cattle this year and a proportionate number of pigs.

The instructions came from George R. Quarles, Military Government chief for food and agriculture in Bavaria, principal source of food for the United States and British zones.

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FMO UNIT GOING TO POLAND-Washington-A mission of ten agricultural economists and technicians will begin on July 3 a two month survey of Poland's major farm problems, it was announced today.

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From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce, June 12 -

SHARP RISE IN SUGAR PRICE HELD UNLIKELY-In view of increased sugar supplies, no extreme price advance appears likely if decontrol is ordered by Secretary Anderson before Oct. 31, B. W. Dyer & Co. sugar economists and brokers, said yesterday.

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COMPROMISE DEAL SEEN GIVING CUBA LARGER US SUGAR VOLUME-Sugar traders yesterday were showing considerable interests in Washington advices indicating that Cuban sugar producers have apparently won the first round in their fight for a bigger share of the U.S. market.

As reported by Associated Press, well informed domestic trade spokesmen have disclosed that industry representatives have agreed upon a compromise offer of a substantially increased market here for Cuban sugar whenever abundant supplies make it necessary to limit production.

Spokesmen for Cuba disclosed recently that Cuba will halt shipments to the U.S. on July 31 unless she receives assurance of the right to supply more than 28.6 percent of U.S. demand guaranteed in the original Sugar Act. They suggested a grant of 53 percent of the U.S. market as a minimum.

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FOOD PRICES SEEN DECLINING FURTHER-Dallas-Food prices are due to decline further and competition is certain to become keener, Charles S. Ragland, prominent Nashville wholesale grocer, told the opening session of the annual meeting of the United States Wholesale Grocers' Association here yesterday.

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From Harrisburg (Pa.) News, June 5 -

FRANKLIN CO. GETS FLORIDA POTATOES FOR INSTITUTIONS - Chambersburg - The receipt of a carload of Florida potatoes from the United States Agriculture Department's Production and Marketing Administration for distribution among public and semi-public institutions was announced today by Norman L. Walck, Franklin County commissioner.

The potatoes, which were given free by the Federal Government, will be allocated as follows:

Franklin County Home, 14,000 pounds; Pennsylvania Soldiers Orphan School, Scotland, 8300; Chambersburg Hospital, 5600; Waynesboro Hospital, 5000; Franklin County jail, 2200; Franklin County Children's Home, 900.

I.H.

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From Iowa Farm and Home Register, June -

FARM LEADERS WANT SOIL PAYMENTS CONTINUED - Iowa farm leaders at the county level would like to see soil conservation payments continued.

These county chairmen of the agricultural adjustment agency (AAA) and presidents of county Farm Bureaus told The Iowa Farm and Home Register they favored these measures by identical affirmative votes - 94.4 per cent.

The Iowa Farm Poll, taking a cross section of the views of farm residents generally resulted in an affirmative vote on price supports and guarantees, but here the "yes" vote was only 80 per cent.

The sampling of Iowa farm opinion was done at the request of United States Representative Clifford Hope of Kansas, chairman of the house agricultural committee, in Washington, which is working on a peace-time farm program.

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From Buffalo (N.Y.) News, June 4

THAT SCARCITY BOGEY - Editorial - If Statistician Louis R. Bean has his facts correct, the analysis of the steel shortage which he has just submitted to the White House on behalf of machinery-hungry farmers would seem to throw important light on a question raised in these columns a few days ago: Who's afraid of plenty?

The question grows out of the paradox of a steel famine in a period of virtually 100% capacity production of steel. From the steel people have come hints that the shortage is not serious, that it is being played up to excuse the reluctance of some other industries to expand their own operations. Otherwise the implication is that present steel capacity is inadequate and should be swiftly expanded if we are to provide the sinews for an economy of abundance. Some important business decisions, in any event, seem to rest more on fear of the future than on hope, and these are decisions which trend toward scarcity when the crying need is plenty.

Mr. Bean's charge, in short, is that the present steel situation exemplifies scarcity economics with a vengeance. His factual allegations will doubtless provoke a heated controversy, and even if true, the question what to do about them is not easy to answer, for it is all tied up with the fundamental problem of finding the right incentives for plentiful production -- the problem of which carrot or stick to use to make the mule go faster.

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From Birmingham (Ala.) Age-Herald, June 5 -

FOR SERVICE TO AUBURN - Editorial - It appears that after all there is going to be a thorough investigation of the administrative and educational organization of Alabama Polytechnic Institute, including the Extension Service and its place in the college. Such a study long has been needed. The decision of the A.P.I. board to proceed with such an inquiry is to be welcomed. It is earnestly to be hoped that it will be thorough.

For years there have been misgivings over this great institution's organizational set-up. Many have felt that it has been working under great handicaps. Criticism has centered around the Extension Service and its relation to the Alabama Farm Bureau.

A great service can be performed to A.P.I. and the people of the entire state by this committee. The institution clearly is in need of an authoritative and comprehensive reconsideration of its organization and its problems. The Extension Service controversy will not be downed until there is a more convincing report on it than has yet appeared. It appeared, following the hearing of P. O. Davis, that little more might be done to this end. But now there is renewed promise of a constructive job being done for Auburn. Innumerable Alabamians will now hold to that hope.

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From Louisville (Ky.) Times, June 4 -

THE DUST BOWL AGAIN - Editorial - The idea, possibly inferred from the successful planting of the windbreak on the plains from Texas up to the timber of the northern hills, that the dust bowl had been completely transformed is illusory, Department of Agriculture experts warn the country. Grain growers and cattle raisers of the region are said to understand and ignore the consequences of repeated plowing and planting and overgrazing. They are making wheat and beef while the sunshines.

This does not diminish the value of the trees on that otherwise shadeless, arid region. These trees are in groves at selected places. They do serve their purpose and protect soil. But grass is the best soil binder anywhere and anywhere that nature is defied, on interior plains or seashore, hills or vallyes, nature extorts a penalty. Wherever loose, dry soil is exposed, the wind will gather some of it up and carry it away. High winds sweep the high plains almost constantly. Five years from now, the country eastward from the plains can expect to be eating their dust.

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From La Crosse (Wis.) Tribune, June 4 -

AVOIDABLE TRAGEDY - Editorial - Farmers' deaths from accidents increased nine percent in 1946, an increase disturbing enough when one learns that nearly all of the increase was the result of automobile and truck accidents.

This avoidable waste of life rose from 5,500 in 1945 to 7,000 in 1946. Deaths from farm home accidents remained unchanged at 6,500, and there were actually 100 fewer work deaths, but once the farmer was on the highway his life was in jeopardy.

The moral is plain. Both farmers and city residents must brush up on their driving habits and demand stiffer penalties for criminally reckless drivers.

JUN 12 1947

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RATIONING OF SUGAR ENDED EXCEPT FOR INDUSTRIAL USE: PRICE OF CONTROLS WILL CONTINUE UNDER ORDER OF ANDERSON, ACTING AFTER ALLOCATION IS INCREASED BY WORLD COUNCIL-Washington-Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson in a sudden move late today ended household and institutional sugar rationing effective at 12:01 a.m. tomorrow. Rationing to industrial users of sugar continues and prices controls on sugar and related products are not affected by the order.

Lifting of rationing at this particular time was due, said Mr. Anderson to today's official announcement by the International Emergency Food Council that the United States would receive 350,000 additional tons of sugar from the Cuban crop. This raises the sugar allocation to the United States this year to 7,150,000 tons and compares with a prewar consumption of sugar in this country of about 6,700,000 tons.

Mr. Anderson said he had hesitated to end sugar rationing before the allocation was made, because he would have been in a weak position asking for more sugar if this country already had enough to go off rationing.

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MEAT PRICES HELD NOT DUE TO EXPORT: ANDERSON CHARGES HIGH COSTS TO 'OTHER FACTORS'--DEMAND BY CONSUMERS STRESSED-Washington-Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson denied today that rising meat prices were caused by meat exports. He charged the higher prices to "other factors," but did not specify what they were.

"Export shipments of meat from United States supplies are now so small that they should have no significant effect on domestic meat prices, either at wholesale or retail levels," Mr. Anderson said.

"Allocations for commercial export during the current quarter, the April-June period amount to only about 3 percent of United States production and are far below allocations for the same period last year."

In addition, he said, the general meat supply is good and the prices that the farmers have been receiving for livestock in recent weeks do not warrant the sharp increases that have been reported in retail outlets.

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CATTLE PRICES SOARING-Prices of choice cattle soared fifty cents to \$1 today at the Chicago Stock Yards in trading that some observers said had the characteristics of a runaway market. The rise elicited forecasts by spokesmen for the U.S. Department of Agriculture that the price increases probably would mean further advances in wholesale dressed meat costs.

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Farm Digest 1265-47

From New York Times, June 12 -

BAVARIA ORDERED TO PROVIDE MEAT: U.S. OFFICIAL ESTABLISHES QUOTAS FOR SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE AND PIGS BY END OF THE YEAR-Munich-The United States Military Government told Bavarian farmers today that they must slaughter 398,000 of their 3,000,000 cattle this year and a proportionate number of pigs.

The instructions came from George R. Quarles, Military Government chief for food and agriculture in Bavaria, principal source of food for the United States and British zones.

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F.A.O. UNIT GOING TO POLAND-Washington-A mission of ten agricultural economists and technicians will begin on July 3 a two month survey of Poland's major farm problems, it was announced today.

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From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce, June 12 -

SHARP RISE IN SUGAR PRICE HELD UNLIKELY-In view of increased sugar supplies, no extreme price advance appears likely if decontrol is ordered by Secretary Anderson before Oct. 31, B. W. Dyer & Co. sugar economists and brokers, said yesterday.

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COMPROMISE DEAL SEEN GIVING CUBA LARGER US SUGAR VOLUME-Sugar traders yesterday were showing considerable interests in Washington advices indicating that Cuban sugar producers have apparently won the first round in their fight for a bigger share of the U.S. market.

As reported by Associated Press, well informed domestic trade spokesmen have disclosed that industry representatives have agreed upon a compromise offer of a substantially increased market here for Cuban sugar whenever abundant supplies make it necessary to limit production.

Spokesmen for Cuba disclosed recently that Cuba will halt shipments to the U.S. on July 31 unless she receives assurance of the right to supply more than 28.6 percent of U.S. demand guaranteed in the original Sugar Act. They suggested a grant of 53 percent of the U.S. market as a minimum.

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FOOD PRICES SEEN DECLINING FURTHER-Dallas-Food prices are due to decline further and competition is certain to become keener, Charles S. Ragland, prominent Nashville wholesale grocer, told the opening session of the annual meeting of the United States Wholesale Grocers' Association here yesterday.

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From Harrisburg (Pa.) News, June 5 -

FRANKLIN CO. GETS FLORIDA POTATOES FOR INSTITUTIONS - Chambersburg - The receipt of a carload of Florida potatoes from the United States Agriculture Departments Production and Marketing Administration for distribution among public and semi-public institutions was announced today by Norman L. Walck, Franklin County commissioner.

The potatoes, which were given free by the Federal Government, will be allocated as follows:

Franklin County Home, 14,000 pounds; Pennsylvania Soldiers Orphan School, Scotland, 8300; Chambersburg Hospital, 5600; Waynesboro Hospital, 5000; Franklin County jail, 2200; Franklin County Children's Home, 900.

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From Iowa Farm and Home Register, June -

FARM LEADERS WANT SOIL PAYMENTS CONTINUED - Iowa farm leaders at the county level would like to see soil conservation payments continued.

These county chairmen of the agricultural adjustment agency (AAA) and presidents of county Farm Bureaus told The Iowa Farm and Home Register they favored these measures by identical affirmative votes - 94.4 per cent.

The Iowa Farm Poll, taking a cross section of the views of farm residents generally resulted in an affirmative vote on price supports and guarantees, but here the "yes" vote was only 80 per cent.

The sampling of Iowa farm opinion was done at the request of United States Representative Clifford Hope of Kansas, chairman of the house agricultural committee, in Washington, which is working on a peace-time farm program.

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From Buffalo (N.Y.) News, June 4-

THAT SCARCITY BOGEY - Editorial - If Statistician Louis R. Bean has his facts correct, the analysis of the steel shortage which he has just submitted to the White House on behalf of machinery-hungry farmers would seem to throw important light on a question raised in these columns a few days ago: Who's afraid of plenty?

The question grows out of the paradox of a steel famine in a period of virtually 100% capacity production of steel. From the steel people have come hints that the shortage is not serious, that it is being played up to excuse the reluctance of some other industries to expand their own operations. Otherwise the implication is that present steel capacity is inadequate and should be swiftly expanded if we are to provide the sinews for an economy of abundance. Some important business decisions, in any event, seem to rest more on fear of the future than on hope, and these are decisions which trend toward scarcity when the crying need is plenty.

Mr. Bean's charge, in short, is that the present steel situation exemplifies scarcity economics with a vengeance. His factual allegations will doubtless provoke a heated controversy, and even if true, the question what to do about them is not easy to answer, for it is all tied up with the fundamental problem of finding the right incentives for plentiful production -- the problem of which carrot or stick to use to make the mule go faster.

From Birmingham (Ala.) Age-Herald, June 5 -

FOR SERVICE TO AUBURN - Editorial - It appears that after all there is going to be a thorough investigation of the administrative and educational organization of Alabama Polytechnic Institute, including the Extension Service and its place in the college. Such a study long has been needed. The decision of the A.P.I. board to proceed with such an inquiry is to be welcomed. It is earnestly to be hoped that it will be thorough.

For years there have been misgivings over this great institution's organizational set-up. Many have felt that it has been working under great handicaps. Criticism has centered around the Extension Service and its relation to the Alabama Farm Bureau.

A great service can be performed to A.P.I. and the people of the entire state by this committee. The institution clearly is in need of an authoritative and comprehensive reconsideration of its organization and its problems. The Extension Service controversy will not be downed until there is a more convincing report on it than has yet appeared. It appeared, following the hearing of P. O. Davis, that little more might be done to this end. But now there is renewed promise of a constructive job being done for Auburn. Innumerable Alabamians will now hold to that hope.

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From Louisville (Ky.) Times, June 4 -

THE DUST BOWL AGAIN - Editorial - The idea, possibly inferred from the successful planting of the windbreak on the plains from Texas up to the timber of the northern hills, that the dust bowl had been completely transformed is illusory, Department of Agriculture experts warn the country. Grain growers and cattle raisers of the region are said to understand and ignore the consequences of repeated plowing and planting and overgrazing. They are making wheat and beef while the sunshines.

This does not diminish the value of the trees on that otherwise shadeless, arid region. These trees are in groves at selected places. They do serve their purpose and protect soil. But grass is the best soil binder anywhere and anywhere that nature is defied, on interior plains or seashore, hills or vallyes, nature extorts a penalty. Wherever loose, dry soil is exposed, the wind will gather some of it up and carry it away. High winds sweep the high plains almost constantly. Five years from now, the country eastward from the plains can expect to be eating their dust.

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From La Crosse (Wis.) Tribune, June 4 -

AVOIDABLE TRAGEDY - Editorial - Farmers' deaths from accidents increased nine percent in 1946, an increase disturbing enough when one learns that nearly all of the increase was the result of automobile and truck accidents.

This avoidable waste of life rose from 5,500 in 1945 to 7,000 in 1946. Deaths from farm home accidents remained unchanged at 6,500, and there were actually 100 fewer work deaths, but once the farmer was on the highway his life was in jeopardy.

The moral is plain. Both farmers and city residents must brush up on their driving habits and demand stiffer penalties for criminally reckless drivers.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, June 13 -

EARLY ACTION SEEN ON SUGAR QUOTAS: LAW SETTING UP NEW SYSTEM MAY BE ENACTED THIS SESSION, HOUSE MEMBER INDICATES-Washington-Lifting of sugar rationing was quickly followed today by indications that a new permanent quota system might be quickly enacted at this session of Congress.

Machinery to this end was set in motion May 5 when Clinton P. Anderson Secretary of Agriculture, sent to the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate letters asking for quota hearings this session.

Asked today whether he would hold such hearings, Chairman Clifford Hope of the House Agriculture Committee said that he had at first intended to leave them over until next session because of the many conflicting interests involved.

However, he added, recent negotiations in the sugar trade, and representations of the interests of the Departments of State and Agriculture have led him to believe that all parties concerned may soon come to Congress with their differences ironed out.

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MARSHALL ATTACKS WOOL TARIFF PLAN: SAYS CONGRESSIONAL PROPOSAL TO CURB IMPORTS MAY SERIOUSLY DISRUPT GENEVA TRADE TALKS-Washington-Secretary of State George C. Marshall said today he was fearful that the Senate-House conference compromise on tariff phases of the wool price support bill might seriously disrupt the international trade program being advanced at Geneva.

Certainly, he added at a news conference, it would greatly complicate the issue and make more difficult, if not impossible, the task of arriving at trade agreements that would contribute to the peace.

The Secretary indicated State Department concern over the injection by the House of tariff raising proposals into a measure which start out only to revive lapsed support prices on wool.

He officially made public copies of communications in which he and the former Secretaries of State, Cordell Hull, "father" of the reciprocal trade agreements program, and Henry L. Stimson, warned against such a move. These documents were before the Senate-House conferees when they reached their decision yesterday.

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CITY ACTION URGED TO CUT MEAT PRICES: RETAIL BUTCHERS AND EMPLOYEES CALL AT CITY HALL TO ASK INTERVENTION BY MAYOR-a delegation representing retail butchers and meat cutters throughout the metropolitan area visited City Hall yesterday to demand immediate action by Mayor O'Dwyer on the problem of spiraling meat prices.

The meat industry representatives brought a resolution with them contending that current "excessive high prices of meat" are causing hardship to meat dealers, meat workers and meat consumers.

They held that continuation of the upward price trend, which has developed in the last few weeks may cause layoffs and possibly the closing of butcher shops.

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From New York Times, June 13 -

SNOW FALLS IN WEST: WHEAT ENDANGERED-Sidney, Neb-Heavy, wet snow and near-freezing temperatures today brought a new threat to the wheat crop in this wheat producing western Nebraska area. A heavy crust of snow pressed wheat stalks to the ground. Temperatures dipped to 32 degrees during the night but climbed to thawing levels by mid-day.

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NEW FOOD RECORD SET: GERMANY GOT 141,000 TONS FROM U.S. DURING LAST WEEK-Berlin-A new weekly record for food imports from the United States to the combined Anglo-American zones was set the first week of June with the arrival of 141,000 tons of foodstuffs valued at approximately \$18,000,000 the American Military Government announced today.

The imports included 137,000 tons of grain and flour and approximately 4,000 tons of other foods, to be used mainly in child feeding. They represented an average of about nine pounds of food for every non farm consumer in the combined zones, which have been beset by a food crisis.

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FARM COURSES IN EUROPE TO BE CONDUCTED BY FAO-Washington-The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization will conduct courses in farm technique in Europe this summer for the instruction of top-ranking European scientists it was announced today.

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From New York Journal of Commerce, June 13 -

SUGAR SCRAMBLE-Like a flash flood, spirited demand for sugar among wholesalers and retailers in the Eastern half of the United States was developing yesterday, a survey by trade interests revealed.

In Pittsburgh housewives queued for supplies at retail stores. In Florida, trucks were lined up a quarter mile long at a refinery taking away packaged supplies of sugar, not bulk.

The demand will not subside in a day or a week. This is the peak consuming season, and the buying will last for a month or six weeks.

In self-protection, industrial users, not only because of the competitive wholesale and retail demand, but also on a remote prospect that price ~~decreased~~ may come by June 30, will compound the call on refiners for sugar.

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From Wall Street Journal, June 13 -

SENATE GROUP DROPS BILL TO END ALL SUGAR CONTROLS-Washington-The Senate Banking and Currency Committee decided to drop, without further consideration, a bill to remove all sugar rationing and price controls.

Chairman Tobey (R.N.H.) said the group agreed that "no further legislation is wise or necessary" in view of Secretary of Agriculture Anderson's order ending home rationing of sugar, which became effective yesterday.

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From Toledo (Ohio) Blade, June 6 -

SLUMP IN SUPPLY OF BEEF CAUSES BOOST IN PRICES; SCARCITY WILL LAST FROM 6 TO 8 WEEKS, CITY PACKERS THINK - Seasonal slumps in the supply of top grade beef cattle began pinching the purses of Toledo housewives this week as wholesale and retail meat prices took a decided jump.

Packers, wholesalers and retailers surveyed today reported the scarcity of beef may last from six to eight weeks. They predicted higher prices accordingly for the period.

A chain store executive reported his distributors were warned yesterday that the supply of all beef and beef cuts is uncertain and high in cost.

The outlets were told they probably would get their normal quota of beef sides, but would not be able to obtain extra quantities of rounds or chucks.

The executive explained retail prices have gone up approximately 10 per cent in the last 10 days. With wholesale beef prices averaging 26 cents, he said, retail prices have been upped to an average of 41 cents.

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From Philadelphia (Pa.) News, June 10 -

SHORTAGE? UPS PRICES OF MEATS - Philadelphia housewives were confronted today with skyrocketing prices of meat as the industry was caught completely off guard by a "flash" shortage.

Retail quotations range from 8 to 11 cents a pound higher than a week ago and one wholesale buyer said the price of live beef in the nearby livestock markets had risen from \$2 to \$4 a hundredweight.

Among the reasons for the unprecedented rise according to merchants, here, are the heavy shipments of meat to flood areas, army and navy commitments, exports to foreign countries and holidays in slaughterhouses during May.

On the other hand, Frank Kleinberg, general manager of the South Philadelphia Dressed Beef Co., blamed "balking wholesalers" for the peak prices. He said Chicago livestock prices were too high.

"I do not expect any cheap meat until the end of the year," he said. "There will be more definite shortages in the near future."

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From Birmingham (Ala.) News-Age-Herald, June 8 -

MILK DEALERS FACE PROBLEM FROM SURPLUS - Auburn, Ala. - National Dairy Month of June finds Alabama facing an acute Grade A milk problem.

Most sections of the state now have a surplus of Grade A milk. In many cases, producers are having to sell their milk as Grade B instead of Grade A because of the surplus being produced.

This is entirely reversed from what the situation was during the Winter months when there was a serious shortage. In many cases, large quantities of Grade A milk were purchased the past Winter from outside the state.

This situation is brought about by the fact that cows give much more milk during the Spring and early Summer months than they do during the dry seasons of the Summer and the cold Winter months.

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From Greensboro, N.C. News, June 8 -

COOLEY SUGGESTS GOVERNMENT BODY TO CONTROL LEAF SALES - Washington - Creation of a federal tobacco commission as a quasi-judicial authority empowered to handle complex problems of production, marketing and warehousing was tentatively suggested here today by Representative Harold D. Cooley, of Nashville, N.D., Democrat on the House Agriculture Committee.

Declaring that he was not yet ready to personally sponsor legislation to put such a proposal into effect, Cooley said he thought tobacco leaders should "consider seriously" such a suggestion in the face of a critical world tobacco trade situation.

His statement followed revelation by the Greensboro Daily News in an elusive Washington dispatch published today, that the Tar Heel House delegation had been thrown into two opposing camps as a result of attempts by some North Carolina tobacco producers to influence simultaneous openings of 1947 tobacco markets in the socalled bright belt and the border belt.

Cooley, one of the most active representatives from the tobacco states, expressed deep concern over the proposal, warning that "any major disruption of the customary staggering of sales" would endanger price structure, handling and redrying of this years crop, now estimated at approximately 1,200,000,000 pounds.

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From Jacksonville Florida Times-Union, June 6 -

HEAVY APPLE CROP TO HURT CITRUS JUICES - Tampa - Bumper apple crops in the United States and Canada will bring stiffer competition to Florida citrus juices this Fall, Marvin H. Walker of Lakeland, secretary-manager of the Florida Citrus Producers Trade Association, said today.

Speaking at the annual meeting of directors of the Florida Citrus Exchange, Walker predicted that citrus would meet tough sledding in both domestic and foreign fields.

Great Britain expects a very large fruit crop and increased production is foreseen for most other European fruit-producing areas, Walker said.

Walker, who represents one of the two largest citrus trade groups in the State, recommended that the citrus industry should get together with other fruit industries for continuous representation in Washington to present a coordinated front on matters pertaining to their interest.

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From El Paso (Tex.) Times, June 5 -

CATTLE DISEASE FUND INCREASE REQUESTED - Washington - A delegation of Texans asked the House Appropriations Subcommittee Wednesday to approve a \$65,000,000 deficiency appropriation for further eradication of the foot and mouth disease in Mexico.

This will augment the \$9,000,000 previously authorized.

According to W. H. Poage, Waco, who led the delegation, most of this sum will be spent to indemnify farmers for cattle slaughtered. Poage cited the fact that Mexico is paying for slaughtering sheep, goats and hogs, also for upkeep of 12,000 soldiers on duty in the quarantine area.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For June 16, 1947)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

JUN 18 1947

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, June 16 -

PUBLIC GETS 20 TONS OF SPOILED FOOD DAILY WITH U. S. SEIZURES BANNED,  
OFFICIAL SAYS - Washington - The housewife, already beset by high food prices, faces another problem -- this one involving the family health.

As a result of a recent Supreme Court decision, housewives no longer can be sure that the food they buy is free of adulterants or contamination.

The Pure Food and Drug Administration lost one of its most potent weapons when the Supreme Court refused to review a case involving seizure of contaminated macaroni and spaghetti in an Arizona warehouse. The ruling forced the administration to stop making seizures of suspect foods or drugs after they leave boxcars or other means of interstate transport.

C. W. Crawford, Assistant Food and Drug Commissioner, said that the decision has placed "an impossible handicap" on FADA's fight "to protect the health and welfare of the public," and that the administration has asked Congress to amend the law.

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CHECKING ON BREADWEIGHT; STATE WARNS BAKERS IT MUST MATCH FIGURE ON WRAPPER - Albany - The State Agriculture Department warned today that bakers using bread wrappers which mislead the public as to the weight of the bread they contain were being prosecuted.

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WOOL BILL CRITICS TERMED 'IN ERROR'; U.S. CALLED 'DUMPING GROUND' FOR WORLD'S ACCUMULATION OF SHELF-WORN GOODS - The provisions and purposes of the hotly discussed Wool Bill, which was reported out favorably by a Senate-House conference committee last Wednesday, have been grossly misrepresented by its opponents, according to a statement made over the week-end by C. J. Fawcett, general manager of the National Wool Marketing Corporation, the largest wool cooperative organization in the United States, with head offices in Boston.

Mr. Fawcett was returning to Boston after attending a meeting of the Wool Research Commodity Committee with officials of the Department of Agriculture in Washington. The American wool markets, he says, "are being used as a dumping ground by every wool producing country in the world for their shelf worn merchandise that accumulated during the war" and the State Department is encouraging an increase in these importations by urging that existing tariffs on wool be lowered.

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COMMERCE GROUP FOR WORLD TRADE - Long Beach, Calif. - Unhampered world trade and a strong international trade organization were favored by the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce, which closed its five-day national convention here yesterday.

From New York Journal of Commerce, June 16 -

FOOD EMERGENCY SEEN CONTINUING - Hot Springs, Va. - Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson said last night that "the world cannot yet see the end of the food emergency" and urges manufacturers and distributors of plant food to "dig in for a long fight against shortage and world hunger."

SUGAR RATIONING - There are so many loopholes in it, now that all sugar rationing is expected to end before the scheduled deadline of Oct. 31. . . Sugar futures trading in the No. 4, or world contract, must have the backing of Cuba before it can start, but it is expected that domestic trading will begin close to July 1.

Domestic beet interests have drafted a plan to have the Sugar Act extended for five years, and give Cuba a larger quota after their plan to have the act extended in its present form for one year met with opposition of Secretary Anderson.

FERTILIZER USE INCREASE WEIGHED; FUTURE MIDWEST USAGE WILL BE LESS CLOSELY TIED TO FARM PRICES - Hot Springs Va. - Although fertilizer consumption for the nation as a whole has closely paralleled the rise and fall in farm prices, doubt was expressed here today by Professor Emil Truog of the University of Wisconsin's soils department, that fertilizer usage in the Midwest will in the future be tied so closely to farm prices.

Attributing the phenomenal increases in fertilizer consumption in the Midwest to high farm prices and a realization by farmers of the urgent need and advantage of such usage, he reported that the annual fertilizer usage in the Midwest during the 1940-46 period rose from less than 1,000,000 to more than 1,500,000 tons.

PLAN TO PROVIDE U.S. COTTON FOR POSTWAR GERMANY - Berlin, (AP) - The United States and British Military Governments have approved in principle an agreement for importation of American cotton - believed to be the initiation of private financing to provide raw materials imports for postwar Germany.

A joint British-American announcement said the agreement - result of several weeks' negotiations between military government officials and United States financial and textile experts -- still was subject to an MG legal opinion and signatures of agencies involved.

From New York Wall Street Journal, June 16 -

LONG-TERM TREND IS TO WHEAT FROM COTTON - The long-term trend of American farm production is away from cotton and toward wheat. Harvested cotton acreage sank from 44.6 million in 1926 to 17.6 million in 1946. Harvested wheat acreage rose from 56.8 million to 67.2 million during the same two decades. Wheat acreage, of course, is expected to drop after Europe's food crisis is over.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
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From New York Times, June 17 -

BUYER RESISTANCE ON MEAT GAINS; CHOICE CUTS RISE ABOVE \$1 IN CITY - City inspectors found several instances yesterday of meat selling at more than \$1 a pound, with record prices including veal cutlets at \$1.25, loin lamb chops at \$1.20, and porterhouse steak at \$1.10.

Commissioner of Markets Eugene G. Schulz said the first day's findings of the price survey undertaken by his department in the five boroughs gave official confirmation to what nearly every housewife already knew that meat prices had gone up steadily in the last two weeks.

The increase, Commissioner Schulz said, was not limited to choice cuts but affected lower-priced meats, too. The Commissioner said neighborhood butchers were reporting a stiffening of buyer resistance.

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WOOL BILL PASSED BY HOUSE; 'ISOLATIONISM' CHARGE FAILS - Washington - The House approved today, while Administration Democrats vainly cried accusations of "economic isolationism," a bill making possible the exclusion from this country of up to 50 per cent of the normal wool shipments from abroad.

New import fees, to add to existing tariffs, also could be added. These, it was stated in the bitter House debate, could aggregate up to 50 per cent of the value of imported wool.

The measure, a composite worked out in Senate-House conferences over the differing versions originally passed in both branches, first of all would continue domestic wool-price subsidies.

Along with this it would empower the President to restrict to half the normal volume the amount of wool that could be brought in from abroad, or to put it on a new basis, if he found foreign shipments interfering with the domestic price.

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CUBANS HAIL SUGAR PLAN; COMMISSION ON POST-WAR PROBLEMS GRATEFUL FOR U.S. AID - Havana - The commission appointed by the House of Representatives to study post-war problems in Cuba met today and approved a resolution expressing gratitude to Secretary of State George C. Marshall and Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson for their recommendation of an increase in Cuba's participation in the United States sugar market.

Representative Francisco Ducasi, chairman of the commission, said Cuba must live on her exports and that an increase of her sugar quota in the United States market would mean economic stability.

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Farm Digest 1295-47

From New York Times, June 17 -

NATION'S FORESTS CALLED ADEQUATE - Chicago - The nation's forestry outlook is more favorable now than at any time since the beginning of commercial lumbering, the American Lumber Congress was informed today. The lumber industry was further assured that the forests are abundant enough to more than supply all the lumber needed for a record-breaking construction period and for years to come.

"We have in this country adequate forest lands to justify confidence that we will never exhaust our resources," said Corydon Wagner of Tacoma, Wash., chairman of the joint committee on forest conservation representing the West Coast Lumberman's and Pacific Northwest Loggers Associations.

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THREAT TO FOOD SEEN IN U. S. SHIPPING LACK - London (Reuters) - The United States shipping shortage will be a tragedy for the world's food supply if it lasts for a substantial time, observers said today.

It comes in the worst possible place and time. Britain would be the least affected, though not immune, and other countries would face disaster, they indicated.

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From New York Wall Street Journal, June 17 -

WHEAT BUYING BY THE GOVERNMENT MAY BE HALTED BY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION - The Senate subcommittee considering the extension of export controls quietly considers a proposal returning all export grain business to private trade. Under this arrangement, foreign customers would be told how much wheat and flour they could buy -- but actual purchasing would be handled through the regular grain trade.

Officials of the Commodity Credit Corp., which does the government buying, are opposed to the idea. They say they are anxious to get out of the wheat buying business, but contend this is not the time to do it.

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A WORLD FARM BLOC has set up shop to push farmers' interests globally. Comprising farm organizations of 13 nations, it will be called the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. All four of the powerful farm groups in this country -- the Grange, Farm Bureau, Farmers Union and the Council of Farmer Cooperatives -- are members. The new organization will plug for commodity agreements controlling world commerce in such important farm products as wheat, cotton, wool, sugar and rice.

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SUGAR TROUBLE IS A CERTAINTY IF THE MARITIME STRIKE IS NOT SETTLED SOON - Big refineries on the Atlantic coast, "looking for business" only a short while ago, are now weeks behind in meeting a heavy influx of orders. They have on hand only enough raw sugar to last about two and a half weeks at the present refining rate.

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From St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, June 12 -

MILK CO-OP PROPOSES 4-POINT FARM AID PLAN - Washington (AP) - The National Cooperate Milk Producers Federation Wednesday proposed that Congress set up an agriculture plan to encourage full production and give farmers fair payments for their goods.

John Brandt of Minneapolis federation president, presented the plan to the House agriculture committee, suggesting:

1. A pool be set up to hold and dispose of surplus goods. This pool would contain seasonal surplus goods at floor price levels based on a modernized parity price formula. Parity is a price designed to give the producer a purchasing power equal to that in a selected base period.

2. A special tax on certain sales of products upon which price stabilization is made effective. The tax revenue would be used to pay for any losses suffered through sale of products from the surplus pool other than through regular or normal sales channels.

3. Changes in the present parity price formula for farm goods. The hourly income of the farmer, his wife, family and all hired help would be considered in figuring the parity prices.

4. Withdrawal from use of those lands on which goods produced, when sold at existing price levels, will barely cover cost of production, and of those lands which fail to produce goods allowing the minimum economic return. These commonly are known as marginal and submarginal lands, respectively. The government would take over or acquire these lands in whole or in part.

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From Iowa Democrat and Leader, June 12 -

SUDDEN BOOST IN MEAT PRICES BRINGS CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES - Chicago, (AP) - The steer and the hog jumped back again into the public spotlight Thursday and there were innumerable charges and counter charges in explanation for the sudden boost in meat prices in livestock markets and in butcher shops.

Average price of steers and yearlings at Chicago Wednesday rose to an all-time record high at approximately \$26 a hundred pounds according to the department of agriculture.

Live hogs have not advanced as sharply as beef cattle, the top here Wednesday being \$24.75 a hundred pounds compared with \$30 on Feb. 25.

Meanwhile, retail meat prices also advanced during the past several weeks and representatives of butchers in the east blamed the meat packers. In Newark, N. J., butchers threatened to close shop unless prices come down.

"The butchers are helpless and are getting so fed up they're ready to take a vacation," Joseph Vian, president of the Independent Retail Butchers Association of New Jersey, said.

Large packers in Chicago, discounting talk of heavy foreign exports, said advancing meat prices represented an "amazing" domestic consumer demand, particularly for beef. This, they said, also was reflected in the high price for beef cattle at livestock markets.

The agriculture department said meat production last week totaled 317,000,- 000 pounds, 46 per cent higher than a year ago.

"When the price of meat goes up, the consumer howls, but when the price of livestock goes down we get the howls from the producer," one packer said.

"We operate between the devil and the deep blue sea."

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From Memphis Commercial Appeal, June 14 -

U. S. COTTON SHIPPERS RETURN FROM MISSION; 200,000 BALES WILL MOVE TO GERMANY NEXT CROP YEAR - The delegation of American cotton shippers, who have been three weeks in Europe arranging for the private shipment of cotton to Germany, returned to Washington yesterday after a successful mission.

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From Milwaukee Wis. Journal, June 13 -

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About 16c of every dollar of cash farm income in the north central states in 1945 were derived from the sale of dairy products, the bank reported. As an example of the importance of dairy manufactures as a source of employment and income, the bank pointed out that in Wisconsin almost 4% of the wage earners in manufacturing industries in 1939 were engaged in the production of dairy products.

Nearly half of the rise in milk consumption in the last 20 years took place during the war, reflecting the wartime gain in family income, the bank said. To this has been added a steep rise in dairy products exports.

While per capita consumption of fluid milk, condensed milk, cheese and ice cream has shown a substantial rise since 1925, butter proved an exception. Shortages and wartime allocations of butter reduced domestic consumption of butter by 37% between 1940 and 1946, the bank said.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For June 17, 1947)

JUN 20 1947

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, June 17 -

BUYER RESISTANCE ON MEAT GAINS; CHOICE CUTS RISE ABOVE \$1 IN CITY - City inspectors found several instances yesterday of meat selling at more than \$1 a pound, with record prices including veal cutlets at \$1.25, loin lamb chops at \$1.20, and porterhouse steak at \$1.10.

Commissioner of Markets Eugene G. Schulz said the first day's findings of the price survey undertaken by his department in the five boroughs gave official confirmation to what nearly every housewife already knew that meat prices had gone up steadily in the last two weeks.

The increase, Commissioner Schulz said, was not limited to choice cuts but affected lower-priced meats, too. The Commissioner said neighborhood butchers were reporting a stiffening of buyer resistance.

- - - -

WOOL BILL PASSED BY HOUSE; 'ISOLATIONISM' CHARGE FAILS - Washington - The House approved today, while Administration Democrats vainly cried accusations of "economic isolationism," a bill making possible the exclusion from this country of up to 50 per cent of the normal wool shipments from abroad.

New import fees, to add to existing tariffs, also could be added. These, it was stated in the bitter House debate, could aggregate up to 50 per cent of the value of imported wool.

The measure, a composite worked out in Senate-House conferences over the differing versions originally passed in both branches, first of all would continue domestic wool-price subsidies.

Along with this it would empower the President to restrict to half the normal volume the amount of wool that could be brought in from abroad, or to put it on a new basis, if he found foreign shipments interfering with the domestic price.

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CUBANS HAIL SUGAR PLAN; COMMISSION ON POST-WAR PROBLEMS GRATEFUL FOR U.S. AID - Havana - The commission appointed by the House of Representatives to study post-war problems in Cuba met today and approved a resolution expressing gratitude to Secretary of State George C. Marshall and Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson for their recommendation of an increase in Cuba's participation in the United States sugar market.

Representative Francisco Ducasi, chairman of the commission, said Cuba must live on her exports and that an increase of her sugar quota in the United States market would mean economic stability.

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Farm Digest 1295-47

From New York Times, June 17 -

NATION'S FORESTS CALLED ADEQUATE - Chicago - The nation's forestry outlook is more favorable now than at any time since the beginning of commercial lumbering, the American Lumber Congress was informed today. The lumber industry was further assured that the forests are abundant enough to more than supply all the lumber needed for a record-breaking construction period and for years to come.

"We have in this country adequate forest lands to justify confidence that we will never exhaust our resources," said Corydon Wagner of Tacoma, Wash., chairman of the joint committee on forest conservation representing the West Coast Lumberman's and Pacific Northwest Loggers Associations.

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THREAT TO FOOD SEEN IN U. S. SHIPPING LACK - London (Reuters) - The United States shipping shortage will be a tragedy for the world's food supply if it lasts for a substantial time, observers said today.

It comes in the worst possible place and time. Britain would be the least affected, though not immune, and other countries would face disaster, they indicated.

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From New York Wall Street Journal, June 17 -

WHEAT BUYING BY THE GOVERNMENT MAY BE HALTED BY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION - The Senate subcommittee considering the extension of export controls quietly considers a proposal returning all export grain business to private trade. Under this arrangement, foreign customers would be told how much wheat and flour they could buy -- but actual purchasing would be handled through the regular grain trade.

Officials of the Commodity Credit Corp., which does the government buying, are opposed to the idea. They say they are anxious to get out of the wheat buying business, but contend this is not the time to do it.

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A WORLD FARM BLOC has set up shop to push farmers' interests globally. Comprising farm organizations of 13 nations, it will be called the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. All four of the powerful farm groups in this country -- the Grange, Farm Bureau, Farmers Union and the Council of Farmer Cooperatives -- are members. The new organization will plug for commodity agreements controlling world commerce in such important farm products as wheat, cotton, wool, sugar and rice.

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SUGAR TROUBLE IS A CERTAINTY IF THE MARITIME STRIKE IS NOT SETTLED SOON - Big refineries on the Atlantic coast, "looking for business" only a short while ago, are now weeks behind in meeting a heavy influx of orders. They have on hand only enough raw sugar to last about two and a half weeks at the present refining rate.

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From St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, June 12 -

MILK CO-OP PROPOSES 4-POINT FARM AID PLAN - Washington (AP) - The National Cooperate Milk Producers Federation Wednesday proposed that Congress set up an agriculture plan to encourage full production and give farmers fair payments for their goods.

John Brandt of Minneapolis federation president, presented the plan to the House agriculture committee, suggesting:

1. A pool be set up to hold and dispose of surplus goods. This pool would contain seasonal surplus goods at floor price levels based on a modernized parity price formula. Parity is a price designed to give the producer a purchasing power equal to that in a selected base period.

2. A special tax on certain sales of products upon which price stabilization is made effective. The tax revenue would be used to pay for any losses suffered through sale of products from the surplus pool other than through regular or normal sales channels.

3. Changes in the present parity price formula for farm goods. The hourly income of the farmer, his wife, family and all hired help would be considered in figuring the parity prices.

4. Withdrawal from use of those lands on which goods produced, when sold at existing price levels, will barely cover cost of production, and of those lands which fail to produce goods allowing the minimum economic return. These commonly are known as marginal and submarginal lands, respectively. The government would take over or acquire these lands in whole or in part.

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From Iowa Democrat and Leader, June 12 -

SUDDEN BOOST IN MEAT PRICES BRINGS CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES - Chicago, (AP) - The steer and the hog jumped back again into the public spotlight Thursday and there were innumerable charges and counter charges in explanation for the sudden boost in meat prices in livestock markets and in butcher shops.

Average price of steers and yearlings at Chicago Wednesday rose to an all-time record high at approximately \$26 a hundred pounds according to the department of agriculture.

Live hogs have not advanced as sharply as beef cattle, the top here Wednesday being \$24.75 a hundred pounds compared with \$30 on Feb. 25.

Meanwhile, retail meat prices also advanced during the past several weeks and representatives of butchers in the east blamed the meat packers. In Newark, N. J., butchers threatened to close shop unless prices come down.

"The butchers are helpless and are getting so fed up they're ready to take a vacation," Joseph Vian, president of the Independent Retail Butchers Association of New Jersey, said.

Large packers in Chicago, discounting talk of heavy foreign exports, said advancing meat prices represented an "amazing" domestic consumer demand, particularly for beef. This, they said, also was reflected in the high price for beef cattle at livestock markets.

The agriculture department said meat production last week totaled 317,000,-000 pounds, 46 per cent higher than a year ago.

"When the price of meat goes up, the consumer howls, but when the price of livestock goes down we get the howls from the producer," one packer said.

"We operate between the devil and the deep blue sea."

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From New York Times, June 18 -

N. Y. CITY COUNCIL ASKS CONGRESS TO INVESTIGATE MEAT PRICES - The City Council adopted yesterday a resolution asking Congress to investigate soaring meat prices throughout the nation. At the same time, Markets Commissioner Eugene G. Schulz reported, on the basis of a city-wide sampling in butcher shops, that meat prices, within a period of eighteen days, had made an "unusual" advance that ranged from 5 to 29 per cent.

Commissioner Schulz offered evidence that the price rises were not limited to choice cuts but struck just as hard at low-income families that bought the cheaper meats. The humble hamburger became a luxury item to some housewives by virtue of a 26 per cent price rise.

In some instances, the city inspectors found, the cheaper cuts of meat were priced higher in low-income neighborhoods than in sections where food budgets are usually higher. Harlem butchers were charging 45 cents a pound for chopped beef which could be bought in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn for 29 cents.

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SUGAR QUOTA RISE, RATION END BARRED; U. S. EXPERT SEES SUPPLY NOT SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT STEP FOR INDUSTRIAL USERS - The sugar supply picture is still not sufficiently clear to warrant immediate increase of allotments to industrial users or removal of industrial ration controls, Albert S. Nemir, chief of program analysis, sugar branch, Department of Agriculture, told a meeting of The Sugar Club yesterday. On the other hand, he said, the Department is not planning to ask for an extension of controls beyond Oct. 31.

Mr. Nemir, reading a speech that was to have been delivered by James H. Marshall, chief of the sugar branch, told the group that the department had no objection to reopening of the New York Coffee and Sugar Exchange in July if the sugar industry so desires. The Government also has no objection to amending control regulations over price and rationing so that future trading can be carried on, he said.

Pointing out that estimates of sugar available for the United States this year are continuing to go higher, Mr. Nemir said that increased supplies from Java, Puerto Rico and Hawaii also are tending to make the supply picture brighter. The fundamental control question, however, is the rate of distribution over the next few months, he pointed out.

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U. S. TO PAY 90% OF PARITY TO GROWERS FOR WHEAT - Washington (UP) - The Department of Agriculture today announced that the Government would offer to wheat growers a chance to sell their crops outright this year to the Commodity Credit Corporation at 90 per cent of parity.

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Farm Digest 1305-47

From New York Journal of Commerce, June 18 -

RAILS EMBARGO EXPORT FREIGHT IN SHIP STRIKE; FOREIGN-FLAG CARRIERS, INTERCOASTAL SERVICE UNAFFECTED BY ORDER - A sweeping embargo on all freight consigned for export on American-flag vessels was imposed yesterday by the Association of American Railroads as prospects for an early end to the current shipping strike faded.

The rail embargo, in addition to barring all exports of commercial merchandise on American vessels, will also halt shipments consigned to the coastal steamship lines. Export freight consigned to foreign flag ships and to American intercoastal lines will, however, be accepted by the railroads, according to George C. Randall, AAR manager of port traffic.

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ACT TOMORROW ON SUGAR TRADING - New York Coffee & Sugar Exchange will meet tomorrow afternoon to act on a recommendation of a special committee that trading be resumed on July 1 in sugar futures domestic contract.

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U. S. COTTON PRICES TOO HIGH FOR U. K. - Liverpool - United States offers of old crop cotton are so dear in comparison with prices asked for competitive growths that it is unlikely the British Cotton Control will show interest in them.

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IOWA FARM FEDERATION TO SET UP HAIL COMPANY - Des Moines, Ia. - The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, already in the automobile and life insurance field, has voted to set up a separate hail insurance company for members.

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From New York Wall Street Journal, June 18 -

CONGRESS MAY CONTINUE TRADE CURBS INTO 1948 TO CHANNEL AID ABROAD - Washington - The program of American aid to hard-pressed foreign nations may force a reluctant G. O. P. to continue controls over exports into 1948.

Legislators are now considering the extension of the government's trade-regulating authority contained in the Export Control Act. They have less than two weeks to make up their minds. Unless they take action by June 30, restrictions on exports will end when the act expires.

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U. S. MILLS CONSUMED 827,234 BALES OF COTTON IN MAY, OFF FROM YEAR AGO - Washington - The Census Bureau reported that United States mills consumed 827,234 bales of cotton during May. This compared with 882,880 during April and 871,470 during May, 1946.

Aggregate consumption of cotton during the 10-month period ended May 31 totaled 8,629,564 bales, compared with 7,641,287 bales in similar period a year ago.

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From Detroit (Mich.) News, June 11 -

BUYERS FIGHT MEAT PRICES; RISE UP TO 20 PER CENT; NO RELIEF IN SIGHT -  
Detroit housewives have begun to rebel at increases in the retail price of meats.

Increases ranged from 7 to 20 per cent over those of three weeks ago -- and little relief was seen by those in the meat industry. Housewife's resistance, in the form of refusal to buy the more expensive cuts, was reported to be widespread.

Cattle buyers in Detroit believed the prices of prime, corn-fed beef would go still higher. Shipments of grass-fed cattle from the western plains, which usually offer price relief at this time were expedited to be 30 to 100 days behind schedule. It will be the middle of July before this type of beef will appear in any quantities on the Detroit market.

The delay was attributed to the late spring.

The sudden jump in meat prices, which sent steaks to new high levels here, has been experienced throughout the nation and little agreement was found as to the cause.

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From Chicago Journal of Commerce, June 12 -

HALF SAID 'NO' - Editorial - "Do you believe that farms will be kept up and farming be profitable without government control of production?" In reply to that question the Grocery Manufacturers of America, polling members of its farm panel, found 45 per cent of them voting "no."

Really; it is disheartening to find nearly half of a group of modern Americans advocating continued government intervention. Free competitive enterprise flowers but feebly in such soil. Its prime product is the fungus of farm dependency.

On what ground do the "no" voters in the GMA poll base their answers?

One of them doesn't believe that farmers are "educated to the point where government can depend on the present land owners to take care of the coming generation." But if we "control" the farmer for the sake of his children, we must similarly control factory-owners, bankers, shop-keepers -- anyone with productive property since such persons, too, cannot be guaranteed to "take care of the coming generation."

Another "no" voter says: "I think the same thing would happen as in 1930. Surplus takes prices down. You have to produce more to sell to get enough to live on. Overproduction drives prices lower. As the standard of living drops, farmers quit the farm." In other words if farmers are subjected to the laws of supply and demand, they will quit.

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From Philadelphia (Pa.) Bulletin, June 13 -

SUGAR DIVIDEND - Editorial - Secretary Anderson gives housewives, hotels restaurants the first fruits of the increased supplies of sugar. In keeping controls on prices and on industrial users the new order is aimed to prevent industries from buying up large quantities of sugar to the disadvantage of the housewife. Congressional restiveness under sugar rationing may have helped the Secretary to an early decision to abandon it. But the Department of Agriculture has indicated for some months that plenty was replacing scarcity in sugar.

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From Manchester (N.H.) Union, June 12 -

FARM PRICE BOOM - Editorial - The conference at Washington on Tuesday, at President Truman's direction, of government officials, insurance company heads, and leaders of farm organizations, to consider the farm price problem was both timely and important. The boom in farm prices, accompanied by an increasing indebtedness through farm purchases, has aroused deep concern among national leaders.

This situation was presented to the conference by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson. The secretary showed that farm prices today are 92 per cent above the 1935-1939 level. This inflation of prices has been accompanied by a sharp increase in the purchase of farmland. The purchase of farms would not in itself be so bad, were it not that in a high percentage of cases it incurs heavy indebtedness. Encouraged by the reign of prosperity during and since the war, many farmers are mortgaging themselves heavily to acquire more land, forgetful of the fact that the present era of high returns may not continue for ever.

Not only so, but lending agencies have made borrowing easy. Secretary Anderson pointed out that last year, in one out of every seven farm purchases the loan amounted to 75 per cent or more of the sale price.

Lending agencies could help by instructing the farmer in the risks involved in incurring heavy indebtedness by overbuying at this time of high farm values. In fact similar caution might prove helpful in the real estate market generally.

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From Little Rock Arkansas Gazette, June 11 -

THESE SURPLUS POTATOES AGAIN - Editorial - Three more carloads of potatoes were dumped in Baldwin county, Alabama, where the potatoes were destroyed that stirred up a country-wide commotion. But now more than 17,000 pounds of surplus potatoes have been shipped by the Production and Marketing Administration from an Alabama point to Montgomery for distribution to institutions in that area.

This whole business goes back to the law passed by Congress which obligated the government to support the price of potatoes. If the government buys large surplus quantities of a perishable product like potatoes, because the market will not absorb them, it has got to find some way to dispose of them. Surplus potatoes should of course be used for food where that disposition of them is practicable, but many tons have been sold for industrial uses or other uses with the government absorbing heavy loss. As was said before in these columns, the government lost \$15,000,000 on potatoes in 1945 and \$80,000,000 in 1946. It is still losing.

The Department of Agriculture actually suggested to Congress that the law be changed. Maybe the commotion over the destruction of potatoes will move Congress to re-examination of the price support program.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, June 20 -

SENATE, 48 to 38, PASSES BILL ALLOWING WOOL IMPORT CURBS - Washington - The Senate, by a vote of 48 to 38, completed Congressional action today on a compromise bill making it possible for the President to impose 50 per cent wool import fees atop the existing tariff and to exclude as much as half of the normal foreign wool shipments.

The measure, which was stoutly opposed by the Administration as a turning toward isolationism and as likely to "scuttle" the current Geneva world trade conference, was approved by a majority somewhat larger proportionately than the 191-to-166 vote by which it passed the House on Monday.

The bill goes to the White House, where a Presidential veto, and one that by every sign could be sustained, was widely forecast.

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CIO SHIP MEN RATIFY PACTS; SAILINGS TO RESUME TODAY - The nation's merchant marine stirred into normal activity last night as the four-day-old maritime strike came to an end.

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WINTER PERIL SEEN TO NEW YORK MILK; DAIRYMEN AT SYRACUSE MEETING SAY COLD, WET SPRING THREATENS SHORTAGES OF FEED - Syracuse, N. Y. - New York City's milk supply next winter -- as well as that of other cities in the metropolitan milk shed -- is threatened by the expected oat and corn shortage due to the wettest, coldest and most backward planting season in Weather Bureau history.

That was the consensus of opinion among hundreds of dairymen from all quarters of the six states included in the territory of the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association which closed its annual meeting here today.

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GOAL SET TO FEED NEEDY CHILDREN; EMERGENCY FUND WILL SUPPLY AID TO 3,250,000 IN EUROPE AND CHINA DURING 1947 - Lake Success, N. Y., - The Children's Emergency Fund will supply milk and supplementary food this year to 3,250,000 undernourished children in Europe and China, it was decided here today by the fund's executive board.

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A BILL TO HINDER TRADE - Editorial - By a Senate vote of 48 to 38 yesterday afternoon Congress completed action on a measure which might truthfully be called "An Act to Hinder World Trade." This was, of course, the wool bill, a hybrid produced by grafting on an Administration price-support plan a provision for quotas or import fees to keep foreign wool from competing with domestic wool. The drive behind this amendment originated with the American wool producers but was not confined to them. Other producers, foreseeing future need for protection in their own fields, joined in.

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From New York Journal of Commerce, June 20 -

BALDWIN ASKS CONGRESS FOR FULL PROCE PROBE - Washington - (AP) - Senator Baldwin (Rep., Conn.) called today for an immediate Congressional inquiry into the problem of high prices, and Senator Taft (Rep., Ohio) assured him one is about to start.

Nevertheless, Baldwin offered a resolution which would authorize the creation of a joint House-Senate Committee, with \$100,000 expense account, "to make a full and complete study and investigation of the present high prices of consumer goods" and report back to Congress by March 1.

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SUGAR FUTURES TRADING TO BE RESUMED JULY 1 - Trading will be resumed in the domestic sugar futures contract after suspension of more than five years on July 1. A committee from the New York Coffee & Sugar Exchange will leave within a few days to confer with Cuban officials on resumption of trading in the No. 4 contract as soon as feasible.

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EGG FUTURES PASS 50c IN UPSWING - Bullish sentiment, prompted by a Government report of low cold storage holdings and expanded consumer demand for eggs as meat prices continue at prohibitive levels, yesterday pushed egg futures to new seasonal highs for the second consecutive day on the Chicago Merchantile Exchange, breaking through the 50c level on both October and November contracts.

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From New York Wall Street Journal, June 20 -

WHEAT WORRIES government price supporters. They cite the narrow margin between market prices and the wheat loan rate of \$2.05, Chicago basis. Officials fear a market slump may swamp the government with an avalanche of the grain from this year's bumper crop.

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SENATE CRITICISM is already in the making for the trade plans being shaped at Geneva. Chairman Millikin of the Senate Finance Committee is secretly at work on a series of G.O.P. attacks on the administration's reciprocal trade program and International Trade Organization proposals.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, June 20 -

BOOST IN DAILY BOX CAR USE FEE IS RECOMMENDED - Washington (AP) - Two interstate commerce commission examiners have recommended a temporary increase from \$1.25 to \$5 in the daily charge a railroad must pay for using another railroad's box car for longer than five days. They told the commission the higher charge should promote efficient use of cars during the present shortage. The examiners recommended some exceptions, such as delays caused by strikes, fires, floods, & storms.

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From Providence (R.I.) Journal, June 13 -

MYSTERY OF MEAT - Editorial - The average price of steers this week reached a new all-time record. The price of hogs, although not establishing a new record, rose appreciably. But none of the price advances at the packing centers compares in degree with the rise of meat at retail in recent days.

Everyone in supposed position to know -- government officials, meat packers, distributors -- professes to be mystified. All claim they cannot explain the sudden rise in prices to the consumer.

The admitted facts as to receipts at stockyards, government purchases, and exports place responsibility on the Administration to investigate this concerted, nation-wide, and abrupt rise in meat prices. If there is any valid reason, the Government should be able on investigation to put its finger on it. In the public interest, it should move swiftly.

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From Chicago Sun, June 13 -

FARM LOANS BAR RUMAWAY PRICES - Peoria, Ill. - Despite the continued rising price trend of Illinois farm lands, there is little danger of prices running away as occurred in the 1920's, Ralph Field, Galesburg broker, told the Farm Brokers meeting here today at the opening session of the Illinois Association of Real Estate Boards annual convention.

Because insurance companies and other landers have held down loans by demanding large cash investments, Field declared it was his belief that speculators could not bring a collapse in the market, since "there has been only a small amount of speculation." The speculator has been frozen out of the market, he said, because of the "big money" needed for down payments.

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From Buffalo (N.Y.) Courier-Express, June 10 -

SURPLUS POTATO DISPOSAL - Conceivably abashed by the storm of protest that followed its destruction of surplus potatoes with kerosene and fire, the Agriculture Department has appealed to public and charitable institutions to take surplus early potatoes off its hands at no cost.

Recognition by the Department of Agriculture that official co-operation in wasteful disposal of potatoes is a shocking procedure -- in view of the high cost of living and the specter of starvation sweeping the world -- may serve to allay popular indignation. Free distribution of surplus potatoes is so obviously feasible and fitting that official resort to it only at long last challenges comprehension. Certainly the new policy should be broadened to take care of the factor of waste in the department's entire program of potato crop purchases. That factor hitherto has been so sizable that the benefits of potato conservation through public or charitable use should prove correspondingly significant.

While the government is minded to mitigate popular food needs, it would seem in order that it make surplus potatoes available to any and all needy who appear entitled to the largest by a government policy of making such food over-costly for them. If the government considers it has the right to destroy food, can it reasonably deny the poor people of the country the privilege to take and consume it for their survival?

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From Denver (Colo.) Post, June 13 -

BACK TO NORMALCY - Editorial - Coca-Cola stock on the New York exchange went up 8 points Wednesday. More than a quarter of a million dollars changed hands on transactions involving 1,700 shares.

Many market observers were somewhat puzzled by the bullish demonstration. They knew that the international emergency food council had just increased the United States sugar quota for this year by 350,000 tons. They knew the increase probably would hasten the removal of sugar rationing --- but how much they did not know.

After the market closed, there came an announcement from Washington. Sugar rationing, except that for industrial use, was to end at once --- at midnight.

That seemed to explain everything. The natural inference was that stock market "insiders" had received a tip in advance and that, while industrial sugar users would not be affected immediately, the news was considered bullish enough to create a Coca-Cola stock buying flurry.

That inference may be entirely groundless but suspicions regarding leaks of valuable market information from high government offices have been entirely too frequent in recent years.

We hope that Secretary of Agriculture Anderson will take the opportunity to check on the stock market flurry in relation to its possible connection with the sugar rationing situation.

Sugar was the first commodity to be rationed in this country during the war. It was the last to be removed from rationing. The era of serious wartime shortages of basic commodities may now be considered officially ended.

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From Butte Montana Standard, June 13 -

DUST BOWL II - Editorial - The Agriculture department estimates that the nation will produce 475,000,000 bushels of wheat more than it will need this year. In order to produce this record wheat crop many farmers are abandoning good farming practices. They are cropping wheat land which should be allowed to lie fallow for a year. They have plowed up grass land which should have been permitted to remain grass land. And they are indulging in other practices which have a tendency to rob the soil of its fertility. So the cost of producing 475,000,000 bushels of wheat more than we need is far greater than merely the value of the wheat by the bushel.

The farming practices of our wheat growers in the Great Plains area during World War I contributed to the cause of the dust bowl of the '30's. The chances are that we have laid the foundation for a bigger and better dust bowl during World War II.

We wonder if any of the recipients of our benefits will remember the source of their aid if and when Dust Bowl II develops.

From Charleston (S.C.) News and Courier, June 15 -

POTATO DUMPING MAY HAVE ENDED AS SEASON CLOSES - With the potato season in Charleston county virtually over, the dumping of potatoes under the government subsidization program may have ended. Charles E. Gibson, Meggett grower, said potatoes were dumped at his farm through yesterday but he believed that would be all. By Tuesday virtually all farmers will have completed their digging, he said.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For June 23, 1947)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Journal of Commerce, June 23 -

PEAK GRAIN EXPORTS PLANNED, FAR ABOVE LAST YEAR'S GOAL - Washington - Minimum grain exports from the United States totaling a record shipment of 16,000,000 tons in the coming crop year are now being considered by the Department of Agriculture, it was learned today.

These exports are planned for the period from July 1, 1947, to June 30, 1948, and are 6,000,000 tons larger than the goal which the Department of Agriculture set a year ago for the crop year now drawing to a close.

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ENDORSES ANDERSON FERTILIZER BILL; OFFERS INDUSTRY CHANCE FOR CONSTRUCTIVE STAND, NFA PRESIDENT SAYS - Spring Lake, N.J. - General support by the fertilizer industry of the fertilizer bill recently proposed by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson which would establish a national policy on soil resources was urged here yesterday by Maurice H. Lockwood, president of the National Fertilizer Association.

The bill authorizes a sound expansion of fundamental and applied research and a demonstration program within reasonable limits and through established State and Federal agencies, Lockwood told 450 members of the NFA at the closing session of the association's annual convention.

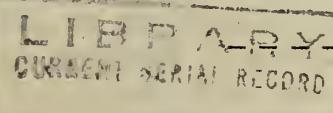
The bill does not include any features authorizing either Government fertilizer plant construction or commercial production of fertilizers by Government or free distribution of fertilizer to two per cent of the nation's farms, in contrast to bills previously introduced which call for construction of Government plants and Government distribution, Lockwood explained.

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From Wall Street Journal, N. Y., June 23 -

LACK OF EQUIPMENT TO HIT '48 JAVA SUGAR OUTPUT, IEFC SAY - Batavia (Aneta) - Javanese sugar production during 1948 will be gravely impaired unless repair and maintenance materials essential to the operation of sugar plants are imported soon, the International Emergency Food Council's three-nation committee on the Java sugar situation stated.

The report confirmed an estimate made by Lawrence Myers, head of the committee and assistant director of the United States Department of Agriculture's sugar marketing branch, that some 200,000 metric tons of the 800,000 tons of sugar on hand in the interior of Java April 1 are available for export.



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From N. Y. Wall Street Journal, June 23 -

RAINS DAMAGE TAXAS, OKLAHOMA WHEAT; LACK OF COMBINES DELAYS HARVEST -  
Fort Worth, Texas - Heavy rains Thursday marched southward from the Texas Panhandle and Southern Oklahoma slowing harvest of wheat, particularly in the Texas Panhandle and Southern Oklahoma. The rains damaged grain standing in the fields as well as many thousands of bushels piled on the ground awaiting cars for shipment.

Lack of combines and freight cars tended to slow the harvest of the largest wheat crop Texas ever raised.

In the central portion of Texas, farmers cut their wheat and shocked it rather than await the arrival of combines. This grain will not be seriously hurt and can be threshed with the first appearance of the sun.

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PRICE INCREASES FOR MEN'S SUITS SEEN UNLESS WOOL BILL IS VETOED - Washington (UP) - Men's woolen suits will go up \$2 each unless President Truman vetoes the wool price support bill, said Walter Morrow, head of the American Retail Federation.

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FARM HAND'S GLORY; HIS WAGE GAINS SINCE 1939 DWARF THOSE OF UNIONIZED CITY LABOR - The American farm hand is "in the money." He's not the guy who owns a farm. He's plows the field. He milks the cow. He's just the hired man. He's not "organized" by union bosses. But the way his wages have climbed since pre-war make the gains of his city-working brethren look like peanuts.

The average factory worker's pay has just about doubled since 1939. But the cash pay of the farm hired man is three times pre-war. And that isn't all. He gets his eats and place to live besides. The 100% increase in food costs battled by urban workers is just something the farm hand reads about.

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From New York Times, June 23 -

NEW FLOOD FEARED IN MID-WEST RAINS; THE MISSISSIPPI AND MISSOURI CONTINUE TO RISE - St. Louis - The Mississippi and Missouri Rivers continued to rise today toward new crests of the second major flood of the month while torrential rains in the watersheds built up the threat of a third flood.

The heavy rains, particularly in the Missouri River watershed, heightened the danger of flash floods in feeder streams.

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CHERRY OUTPUT DROP SEEN; YIELD EXPECTED TO BE 35% OFF FROM 1946'S.  
110,000 TONS - Toledo, Ohio - Directors of the National Cherry Growers Industry Council predict that the 1947 red cherry crop will be 35 per cent smaller than last year's yield of 110,000 tons. Horace Putnam, the Council's president said that the Michigan crop - usually the nation's foremost — had been reduced an estimated 50 per cent by frost and rainy weather during the pollination period.

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From Omaha (Nebr.) World Herald, June 12 -

**SPUD SURPLUS CURES SOUGHT** - The potato surplus and how to handle it is a problem which continues to dog Congress and the Agriculture Department.

Beset by dramatic reports of burning and dumping, a handful of Congressmen are trying to find a way out in subcommittee hearings.

Agriculture Department officials have said they'll be eternally grateful if the Congressmen do so.

Meanwhile, the Department is preparing to forestall a repetition of last year's one million bushels of spuds too many.

This year, 's help the Production and Marketing Association, which negotiates support loans, the farmer who grows more than his allotment of potatoes will have to shift for himself in the market.

First encouraging result: The Deep South is harvesting an early potato yield now which will be less than last year's crop by 30 million bushels.

Hopeful expedients to relieve the potato glut permanently have been described to the subcommittee.

Most volatile witnesses are the potato-flour users and makers, who think Congress should underwrite Government-built potato-flour mills. Or at least do research for these future mills which may or may not attract private capital.

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From Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune, June 15 -

**NEW CORN TYPES DEVELOPED AT 'U'; HYBRIDS ELIMINATE WET SPRING HAZARD** - One of the greatest hazards in Minnesota corn production soon may be eliminated.

A cold, wet spring which hinders germination and prevents growth of vigorous stands is expected to lose much of its influence on corn production as the result of tests now under way at University farm.

Preliminary tests in a new low-temperature chamber at the farm already have shown that it is possible to breed hybrid corn that is tailor-made to combat the difficulties of wet ground and low temperatures.

In the experiment, artificial conditions of temperature and moisture can be obtained which approximate such seasons as those of 1945, when the cold, wet weather brought on poor stands and resulted in a soft corn crop.

Considerable evidence already has been obtained pointing to development of new lines superior to most of those now in use, according to E. H. Rinke, associate professor, and E. L. Pinnell, instructor, division of agronomy and plant genetics, who reported the experiments.

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From Indianapolis (Ind.) News, June 12 -

**FARMERS RACE AGAINST TIME** - Editorial - In connection with two of Indiana's premier crops, corn and soybeans, time is the essence and time is running out. That explains why the farmers are making unprecedented efforts to seed these crops. Tractors run all night to complete plowing. Seeding is done as rapidly as soil conditions will permit. Farm pools are being organized in numerous counties and available labor and equipment will be rushed from one place to another in a last-minute effort to beat the deadlines.

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From Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, June 13 -

HERE'S A REASON - Editorial - There are a lot of charges and counter charges in explanation for the surprising boost in meat prices in livestock markets and in butcher shops. Some stockmen, packers and butchers say they are stumped about the causes.

One may get quite technical and talk about the increase in money supply because of the war, the government's need to borrow tremendously and the inflationary effort of sending food abroad. But there are other things, too. The most plausible explanation is to be found in a report by the United States Department of Agriculture.

It points out that our eating is not to be overlooked. The country has developed habits of eating more and better than ever before.

If farm prices, especially prices of meat, are high, one may find an explanation besides the political gripe that price support policies of the government and the foreign economic policy are at fault.

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From Des Moines (Iowa) Register, June 15 -

THIS ISN'T THE FARM PROGRAM WE WANT - Editorial - John Brandt, president of the National Co-operative Milk Producers federation, has outlined a plan for a giant surplus farm commodity pool to support farm prices after the Steagall amendment expires in December 1948. This surplus pool would buy up farm products as necessary to keep prices above some new "parity" level. It would dispose of the surpluses in foreign markets by sale, barter, or for relief.

Mr. Brandt's plan calls for an independent surplus control board to manage the pool. Funds for the pool would be obtained from special taxes levied on the products to be supported. The board also would have power to take farm land out of cultivation by renting it from farmers.

The chief difficulty with such a plan is the same as that which plagued the Farm Board back in 1929 and 1930, and which plagued the Commodity Credit Corporation in pre-war years -- undisposable surpluses. The Farm Board crashed under the burden of big stocks of wheat. It couldn't stop the decline in prices. The CCC got bailed out by World War II. It had accumulated heavy stocks of corn, wheat, and cotton under the crop loan program and could not dispose of them until war demand and two short cotton crops solved the problem.

Shipping surpluses overseas is not a workable solution for the long run, because "dumping" in other countries always brings retaliation in the form of tariffs, import quotas and other kinds of trade barriers.

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From New Orleans (La.) Times-Picayune, June 15 -

TIMBER SEEN AS NEW FARM PROFIT CROP - Washington - More consideration than ever before is being given to the financing of timber growing. The success which has followed the pioneering of the New Orleans Land Bank in that field is one of the reasons for the interest being shown. A study of the problem by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta led to the conclusion that "Forest Financing by Commercial Banks has such obvious advantages that it is incumbent on these lenders to expand their activities in that field."

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2 DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(June 24, 1947)

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From New York Times, June 24, -

TRADE TALKS HANG ON U. S. WOOL BILL; AUSTRALIA WILL ADJOURN GENEVA PARLEY IF AMERICAN TARIFF PROPOSAL BECOMES LAW - Geneva (UP) - Australia will seek adjournment of the International Trade Conference if the bill to raise American wool tariffs becomes law, it was revealed here today.

Dr. Herbert Coombs, Australian delegate to the conference now in session here, has informed the United States delegation of the probability of adjournment if the United States bill goes into effect.

If the bill, now awaiting presidential action, does become law, Australia would ask the whole British Commonwealth group to support the demand for adjournment, it was reported.

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HIGH FOOD PRICES LAID TO 'POLITICS'; AIDE OF NATIONAL RETAIL GROCERS WARNS CONVENTION TO CALM 'WRATH OF CONSUMERS' - San Francisco - High food prices were attributed today by Tyre Taylor of Washington, general counsel of the National Association of Retail Grocers, to the Truman Administration and to "politicians who are trying to work both sides of the street."

He told representatives of the nation's half-million independent retail food stores at the association's annual convention that they undoubtedly were beginning to feel the pinch of consumer resistance to the existing high prices, but that they all knew by now "that no one is going to produce, manufacture, or sell at a loss merely to enable Mr. Hannegan (Robert Hannegan, chairman of the Democratic National Committee) or any other political manager or boss to corral some additional votes."

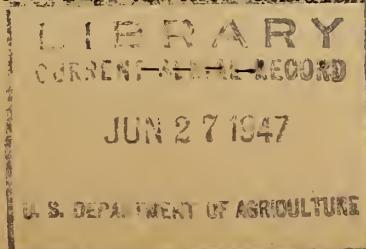
"Then what," he asked, "is the point and purpose of the continued agitation for lower prices and the studied silence on the wage increases that are steadily raising prices?"

The answer, he said, was that, "simultaneously with the continued economic appeasement of organized workers, an attempt must somehow be made to calm and turn aside the wrath of consumers by inspiring the hope of lower prices."

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BOTTLED CAR 'HOARDING' FOUND; AMERICAN ROLLING STOCK SAID TO BE HELD IN CANADA - Ottawa (AP) - Canada is "hoarding" American-owned box cars in an effort to alleviate a growing transportation shortage that soon may exceed the crisis of last winter, reliable American sources said today.

They asserted that the practice had become so widespread that the State Department protested informally to the Canadian Government.



Farm Digest 1345-47

From New York Times, June 24 -

U. S. TO STOP FLOW OF GREEK PARCELS; HOOF-AND-MOUTH DISEASE BAN ON IMPORTATION OF MEAT WILL BE ENFORCED - Harry M. Durning, Collector or Customs took action yesterday to halt the mysterious flow of Greek food parcels into this country. In the last six months thousands of such parcels, containing an estimated 100,000 to 160,000 pounds of meat, have been received here from that hungry country.

Mr. Durning notified all steamship and aviation lines serving the Mediterranean area that after July 7 the regulations barring the importation of meat and meat products from countries where the hoof-and-mouth disease was prevalent would be strictly enforced for non-commercial importations. Greece is one of the countries covered by the regulation.

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U. S. BUYING POTASH FROM SOVIET ZONE; \$3,250,000 DEAL AT \$34 A TON CRITICIZED — FERTILIZER TO GO TO JAPAN AND KOREA - Minden, Germany - The United States War Department has signed a \$3,250,000 contract with the Soviet zone Military Government for the purchase of potash, it was learned today. Under the terms of the contract, the Soviet is to deliver in the next five months 95,000 tons of fertilizer for shipment to Japan and Korea.

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From New York Wall Street Journal, June 24 -

MEAT PRICES are buoyed by full employment, not foreign buying. Actually foreign nations take only about 3% of U. S. meat output at best. And right now they are cutting purchases -- rather than upping them. The government granted export allocations for 142 million pounds of meat in the first quarter. But as the quarter closed, foreigners had bought and shipped home only 34 million pounds.

Britain, in particular, is trimming purchases. Last week she was scheduled to buy 10 million pounds of beef. But she changed her plans, say meat men, and withdrew from the market.

But there are 14 million more people with paying jobs now than in 1939. The number of employed has increased by a third. More money earners per family means more choice meat on more tables. That's the basic answer to lofty steak prices.

This country's present beef output is huge. For the year it will be close to 10 billion pounds. In 1939 it was only 6 billion pounds. The 1937-41 average was only 7.3 billion.

In pre-war days, Americans ate beef at the yearly rate of 55.6 pounds per person. The present rate is 69 pounds. That is stepping up the beef eating tempo by 25%.

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From New Orleans (La.) Times-Picayune, June 14 -

MEAT PRICES DISMAY WIVES; LAMB UP 25 PERCENT; SALES DROP OFF HERE -

Steady rise in prices of meat is dismaying both housewives and retailers this week-end in New Bedford. Sales of meat are dropping off as purchasers decide they can't and won't pay the prices dealers find they have to charge.

Price of lamb is up 25 percent wholesale since last week, a large Center market manager said. Beef has gone up less, but so much that the generally quoted retail price for humble hamburger is 49 cents for cheap grades, 59 for the better. Steak cuts start at 79, with quality steak as much as 30 cents higher.

Meat sales at that market yesterday were about 35 percent below normal.

A large market estimated the average rise in its meat prices as 10 cents a pound over last week. Proprietor of a smaller establishment asserted other places were raising their prices more than necessary. He claimed his were up only about 5 or 6 cents higher than last week and patronage was about normal.

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From Omaha (Nebr.) World Herald, June 13 -

BUTLER FLAYS FFMC BILL; CALLS IT \$100,000,000 GIFT TO LAND BANKS - A pending bill to transfer Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation assets to the co-operatively-owned Federal Land Banks was assailed Thursday by Senator Butler as "a proposal to give away 100 million dollars."

He told members of the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee that this bill to dissolve the FFMC in favor of Land Banks was a "bald piece of class legislation."

The proposed act would wind up the depression-spawned FFMC on these terms:

1. Turn over its bank roll of 100 million dollars to the Federal Land Banks.
2. Use their surplus for a Federal Land Bank reserve against financially rainy days and against increased loans.
3. Grant the Federal Land Banks the right to make loans on land up to 75 per cent of value of the acreage. Their ceiling now is 65 per cent.

Senator Butler is dubious of the wisdom of 75 per cent loans.

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WET FIELDS TO REDUCE CORN CROP - A 1947 corn crop smaller than recent record yields seemed assured today as farmers slogged through the wettest fields in a decade trying to finish their planting.

Across the country, 20 to 25 per cent of land intended for corn remains unplanted, a Department of Agriculture survey showed.

Millions of acres are under water or too soggy to work. Large areas still await the plow.

The sorry outlook for corn, however, is offset partly by still excellent prospects for an all-time record wheat crop.

The estimate of 1,409,893,000 bushels is almost twice the prewar average and 254,000,000 bushels more than last year's excellent yield.

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From Boston (Mass.) Herald, June 16 -

BUY IT FROM ARGENTINA - Editorial - The price of beef is soaring again in Chicago and Kansas City. The growers say a main cause is government purchases for export abroad. Secretary of Agriculture Anderson denies this, stating that exports of meat, less than half of what they were a year ago, are "now so small that they should have no significant effect on domestic meat prices." Also, the Army and Navy, he says, are using about 30% less meat than in 1946. But he agrees with the beef growers that consumer demand at home is unusually strong.

If this is so, if the American people want more meat and are able to pay a reasonable price for it, why should the supply be arbitrarily limited to what our western cattlemen can provide? Why should Mr. Anderson's department be allowed to continue a so-called quarantine on imports of fresh beef from one of the greatest cattle-raising countries in the world, Argentina? Why can Britain, France and other European countries safely import and consume Argentine beef without apparent spread of the hoof-and-mouth disease to their livestock?

Refrigerator ships could bring beef from Buenos Aires to Boston and other Atlantic ports in only a few more days than it takes refrigerated cars from Chicago. They could bring beef of equally good quality, and, what is most important to hungry Easterners, it would be beef that would sell at perhaps half Chicago prices.

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From Albuquerque, (N.M.) Journal, June 12 -

UNBALANCED - Editorial - The rapid advance in the price of retail meat, accounted for by some sources as due to heavy foreign purchases and in other quarters by the higher feed costs, is the principal worry to housewives these days in making the family budget go far enough.

The report of the Department of Agriculture does not inspire much hope of a more plentiful supply of livestock feed grains. Farmers appear to have over-emphasized wheat production which, it is forecast, will reach the record proportions of nearly double the prewar average, and at the same time cut down on other crops, particularly livestock feed grains.

The result is that there will be plenty of wheat to meet the foreign demand, and the possibility of insufficient feeds to fatten the livestock and get the prices down if the heavy foreign buying continues.

The weather contributes to the unbalance with the excessive rains in the corn belt delaying the planting of corn and other feed crops, or floods or high water destroying some of the crops.

Everything appears to be working to prevent a return to normal conditions.

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From Lexington (Ky.) Herald - June 13 -

BUMPER BLUEGRASS CROP - Editorial - A bumper crop of bluegrass is reported. Everywhere farmers are stripping bluegrass seed. A million-bushel crop is being predicted. Since this is the first big one in five years, it is welcomed. Very favorable conditions were found in the production of bluegrass seed, this makes the grass itself a real cash crop. Last year cured bluegrass seed sold for an average of \$2.75 a bushel.

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Farm Digest 1345-47

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(June 25, 1947)

A2D14

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, June 25

SOME MEAT SHOWS SMALL PRICE DROP - Prices of five cuts of beef and veal dropped another cent or two in retail shops throughout the city yesterday as consumer resistance to high prices caused a further glut in wholesale markets. Other retail meat prices remained unchanged, and pork went up two cents more at wholesale.

Markets Commissioner Eugene G. Schulz said the general halt in price increases, which were setting new high records a week ago, and the reduction of some prices were "due in great part" to the refusal of housewives to buy.

The New York State Association of Retail Meat Dealers predicted that average retail prices would be 10 percent lower this week-end than they were last Friday and Saturday. The association made its report on the basis of a survey in the five boroughs and Westchester County.

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CROP LOSSES SOAR IN MIDWEST FLOODS: TOO LATE FOR REPLANTING - St. Louis - The June floodtide continued to roll through the vast Mississippi and Missouri watersheds today as the crop loss in the Country's "breadbasket" mounted to tremendous proportions.

Rich corn and wheat fields have been hard hit by the continuing rains and high water at a time when the Government counted upon a bumper crop to help feed Europe and reduce domestic food prices.

Thousands of acres of valuable farm land, including that given to potatoes, sugar beets and small grains, have been inundated by rampaging streams in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Illinois.

For most of the Midwestern farmers it is too late to replant. In many sections farmers already had replanted twice after heavy spring rains and smaller floods, but the June floods have cut the growing season.

Agricultural experts remained optimistic, however. They believed that the over-all effect of the floods would be relatively small because of the prospects for a bumper harvest.

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U.S. DELAYS INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT: NO ACTION SEEN POSSIBLE FOR AT LEAST A YEAR - Washington (AP) - L. A. Wheeler, chairman of the International Wheat Council, said today, a long-term international agreement to stabilize prices and supplies of wheat in world markets would not be put into effect for at least a year. A tentative agreement reached at a recent London conference had set July 1 as the effective date.

The pact requires approval of Congress, and the United States has informed the council it will not be possible for this nation to act on the proposal by July 1.

Mr. Wheeler, who also is director of the Department of Agriculture's office of foreign agricultural relations, said the countries that took part in the London conference are not all in accord on several points in the agreement. One point is the range of prices that would be allowed to prevail in world markets. It was suggested at London that the range be such as to assure American farmers a minimum of \$1 a bushel and a maximum of \$1.85.

From New York Journal of Commerce, June 25 -

FERTILIZER BILL BACKED BY N. F. U. - Washington (AP) - Benton J. Strong of Denver, a representative of the National Farmers Union, said today that American farmers are victims of a "bold fertilizer trust" and an "unworthy Government extension service."

He made the assertion before the Senate Agriculture Committee in indorsing a bill to establish a nationwide program of restoring soil fertility.

Strong told the committee that the private fertilizer industry is "one of the nation's tightest trusts" and is jeopardizing the national welfare by opposing new methods of rebuilding the soil.

He opposed, however, a provision to place operation of the test fertilizer program under the Agriculture Department's extension service. He said the extension service is so closely allied with the Farm Bureau Federation that it is a public agency "only on the income, or fiscal side."

FIRST NEW COTTON CROP GINNED - Brownsville, Texas - The Rio Grande Valley's first and second bale were ginned today. No large movement of the new crop was expected, however, before the middle of July. Weather conditions continued favorable for growth.

From New York Wall Street Journal, June 25, -

CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX OFF IN MONTH TO MAY 15 - Washington - The consumers's price index declined 0.2% during the month ended May 15, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

Residential rents rose 0.2% while food pricts fell 0.2%. Prices for fats and oils dropped 12% and lard prices fell 26%. Dairy prices decreased slightly more than 4% on the average, with cheese and butter declining 5 and 4 cents per pound, respectively, the B.L.S. declared.

Clothing prices declined fractionally between April 15 and May 15. The bureau explained t hat lower prices for men's work clothing, shorts and undershirts and women's hose and cotton dresses more than offset higher prices of shoes.

From Chicago Daily Tribune, June 25 -

JULY CORN HITS NEW PEAK, \$2.01 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; STOCKS TAKE SHARP TUMBLE - July corn rose to \$2.01 $\frac{1}{2}$  a bushel yesterday, a new record high for any corn future on the Chicago Board of Trade. The price was 3/4 cent above a new record established only last Friday and 3? cents above a high of \$1.99-1/8 recorded in July, 1919.

Inadequate commercial supplies of corn, government demand for the grain for export, and unfavorable crop conditions were responsible for the rise, markets obervers said. Profit taking and increased offerings of corn from the country later caused a decline in July corn, which closed at \$1.98 $\frac{1}{2}$  to \$1.98-3/4, up 1/2 cent over Monday close.

From Houston (Tex.) Post, June 18 -

MATAGORDA COUNTY COTTON BLIGHTED BY WEED-KILLER - Bay City - An estimated 4000 acres of young cotton has been reported as blighted, some of it totally destroyed, in western Matagorda county by windborne 2, 4-D, a new type of weed-killer developed during the war.

The affected acreage was revealed Tuesday by H. D. Madsen of Danevang. Madsen was appointed chairman of an investigating committee Monday night at a meeting of more than 150 cotton farmers.

The farmers believe that the 2, 4-D settled on their fields when rice planters sprayed their fields with airplane dusters.

Charles A. King, associate entomologist of the Texas A. & M. college extension service, said the plants he inspected were damaged by the weed-killer used by rice planters to kill such noxious weeds as Japanese burr.

Before the crippling 2, 4-D crept into the cotton lands, farmers were looking forward to the best crop in four years.

Some of the dust was reported to have been blown five miles. Small portions of cotton crops in the southern section of Wharton county were affected.

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From Bridgeport (Conn.) Post, June 15 -

RED MEAT IS GILT-EDGED - Editorial - Meat prices continued their upward swing so that over the week-end housewives who treated their families to steaks and roasts, were giving them something "out of this world," gilt-edged red meat. And they don't know why. All they know is that they wanted a roast of beef, were determined to have it, and were willing to pay the extravagant price.

So far, no one has given the answer to the high prices of meat -- not even Chester Bowles, who smilingly came to the front to tell the country that it is all due to the abolition of his uneconomic O. P. A.

There are other reasons, many of them, and the people will look to the President for the answers. Surely he has men enough and power enough to get to the bottom of this serious situation.

In New York City alone, 37 million pounds of meat reached the market last week, but prices jumped from 15 to 25 cents a pound. There is plenty of meat, which even the Secretary of Agriculture admits, denying that foreign buying is so great that it caused the price rise here.

The big meat dealers in Chicago say the price rise is due to an unprecedented demand on the part of the consumer for meat. Does that mean that in the last two weeks, every American family became gluttonous and decided to eat all the meat they could get?

The whole situation is cluttered with confusion, just as difficult and unexplainable as it was when Mr. Bowles was practicing his economics on the people of the United States.

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From Oakland (Calif.) Tribune, June 12 -

FARM LAND PRICES - Editorial - History repeated when the price of farm lands went up during the war and the magnified demands for food production. If it repeats again there will be an eventual peacetime drop in values to leave many veterans and others owing to government or banks more money than their property is worth.

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From Bluefield, W. Va. Telegraph, June 18 -

RESULTS NOT ALWAYS TRUE TO HOPES OF PEOPLE - Editorial - The plans and expressed hope of President Truman that the retail merchandising interests of the country would make an arbitrary reduction of 10 per cent in prices in order to inaugurate a downward trend in the necessities of life, does not seem to have made a permanent impression.

While numbers of storekeepers responded enthusiastically, a complement of traders turned the patriotic suggestion into an opportunity for slick trading and the effort for price reduction could not be said to have had an enduring quality.

This is proven by the fact that prices have since mounted high in a number of the necessities of life. No good reason for this advance in food prices has been offered unless it be that the increased prices were a reflection of the policy of sending large shipments of food abroad.

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From Pawtucket (R.I.) Times, June 16 -

THIS MIGHT HELP - Editorial - That demand of Chairman August H. Andresen, of the House food investigating subcommittee to learn who ordered wholesale destruction of government-owned potatoes last year couldn't do a bit of harm. It might help to end some confusion about food policies, which are becoming too difficult for the average American to follow.

It does not make sense that the country should be forced to put up good money to buy potatoes for destruction. Nor is there comfort in the statement of the Agriculture Department's advisory committee such surpluses are likely to continue as long as price supports make them possible.

At a time of world food shortages, there are many who will wish to know, as does Mr. Andresen, "just who in the department decided we should destroy our surplus potatoes instead of making them available to poor people or perhaps processing them for shipment to hunger areas overseas."

Many are disturbed because certain areas were forced to import Canadian potatoes this spring at high prices after the government destroyed many bushels last autumn.

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From Saginaw (Mich.) News, June 18 -

FLY IN THE SUGAR BOWL - Editorial - Sugar refiners already have been forced to call attention to the public of a loophole left in the government's decontrol program that may force the housewife to engage in hoarding just to insure that she gets her fair share. Industrial users, including bakers, candy-makers and soft-drink manufacturers, still are rationed under their quota system.

Unrationed sugar cannot be sold in amounts exceeding 100 pounds. But what's to prevent industrial users from buying up 100-pound sacks of the precious stuff from retail outlets? Refiners are not just wondering. They know already that industrial users are moving in on the housewife's supply, and unless retail stores voluntarily move to protect their domestic customers, there doesn't appear to be any way of stopping the practice.

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Reserve

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For June 26, 1947)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, June 26 -

MEAT PRICE CURB IS OPPOSED BY TAFT; TAKES STAND AT HEARING WHEN O'NEAL SAYS CORN OUTLOOK MAY MAKE CONTROLS NECESSARY - Washington - Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, suggested today that a meat shortage threatened by prospective failure of the corn crop might make restoration of price control necessary.

Senator Robert A. Taft, chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on the economic report, before which Mr. O'Neal testified, indicated, however, that there was no possibility of such a remedy.

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WOOL BILL VETO INDICATED; TRUMAN TO ACT THIS WEEK - Washington (UP) - President Truman will sign or veto the wool price support bill tomorrow or Friday, Charles G. Ross, White House press secretary, said today.

Mr. Truman has until midnight next Wednesday, July 2, to decide.

Mr. Ross said the President plans a message to Congress to explain his action on the wool bill, a strong hint of a veto. The controversial measure would permit tariff or quota restriction on foreign wool imports.

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3 MORE MEAT CUTS SHOW SLIGHT DROP; HIGHER PRICES ARE EXPECTED - Price reductions in three more cuts of meat from their record highs of about ten days ago were reported yesterday by Markets Commissioner Eugene G. Schulz.

The average price of porterhouse steak was down from 95 cents a pound to 89 cents, leg of lamb was down 74 cents a pound to 65 cents, and plate and navel dropped from 33 cents a pound to 29 cents.

Six other meats, including calves liver, which had dropped on Monday 4 to 10 cents a pound from last week's prices, remained yesterday at the lower levels. All other meat prices were as high as they had been when the city started its investigation into soaring retail costs.

Although butcher shops and wholesale houses had more meat than New York housewives were willing to buy at current prices, market inspectors said wholesale beef prices might go still higher. They reported that wholesalers feared livestock and slaughterhouse prices might rise because fewer cattle were coming into the Western yards.

DELAYS SUGAR QUOTA BILL; HOUSE GROUP HALTS MEASURE GIVING POWERS TO PRESIDENT - Washington (AP) - The House Agriculture Committee delayed approval of new sugar quota legislation today to determine whether it gives the President authority to suspend 1948 quotas in event of a shortage. The committee earlier had planned to approve the bill and recommended its passage. Chairman Clifford R. Hope, Republican, of Kansas, explained that "we merely want to make sure that the President will have the authority to suspend the quota provisions of the bill in the event they are not needed to assure producers a fair price."

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From New York Times, June 26 -

FRESH HIGH RECORD REACHED BY CORN; JULY DELIVERY GAINS  $3\frac{1}{2}$  CENTS - Chicago-Demand for July corn developed in the late trading on the Board of Trade today and that delivery went to a new high for the second consecutive day, closing at the top at the gain of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cents a bushel. The deferred deliveries went to a new seasonal high and closed with gains of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cents, September leading. The latter, like July is an old-crop month, while December and May represent the grain that will be harvested next fall. Closing trades were at about the top.

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From the Journal of Commerce, June 26 -

FTC CLAMPS DOWN - FTC, broadening its attack on the basing point delivered price system, charges 19 corn products companies -- virtually the entire industry -- with systematic price discriminations. Scope of the charges goes far beyond the Staley and Corn Products Refining Co. cases won two years ago by FTC.

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From New York Wall Street Journal, June 26 -

OUTLOOK FOR NEW SUGAR LAW, BASED ON ANDERSON BILL, SEEN IMPROVED - Washington - Prospects for an entirely new sugar law have taken a turn for the better.

Agriculture Secretary Anderson has offered a bill rewriting the sugar act of 1937. It is designed in part to stabilize sugar prices.

Rep. Hope (R., Kan.), chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, said yesterday he considers this "a pretty good bill."

It's not too late for Congress to enact a new law before adjournment, Mr. Hope added.

Thus far, the bill has encountered no formidable opposition. The State Department has given it's endorsement. Cuban growers have asked for changes but they recognize that the new proposal offers them a bigger share of the U. S. market than they got under the 1937 law, due to expire this June 30.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, June 26 -

PIONEER SPIRIT OF FARM WIVES CONQUERS RAIN - The midwest is going to get its crops out of the ground this year despite wet weather, but it has been and is a case of getting out in the fields with every piece of equipment every available minute.

Wives, children, and old folks have turned out to keep that equipment going, even tho it has meant night plowing, whole families working in shifts, and the recruiting of part time help.

The Tribune made a survey of Illinois farmers yesterday and of the men who know the midwest farmers. They reported that the crops are going in and that the problems are being whipped.

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From Courier (N.Y.) Express, June 18 -

SHOPPERS PAY RECORD PRICES FOR MEAT HERE; PORTERHOUSE AT \$1.20 TOPS BLACK MARKET ERA - Retail meat prices are at an all-time high with beef selling at wholesale 50 percent higher than former OPA ceiling prices and more than 20 percent higher than previous black market levels, a survey by The Courier-Express revealed yesterday.

Despite the "exorbitant" prices, according to some retailers, Madam Housewife continues to buy meats for the family, although the quantity may be reduced and she may shop around more for better prices.

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From the Star (Tex.) Telegram - June 17 -

NEAR-RECORD SET HERE BY WHEAT CARS: BIGGEST RECEIPTS SINCE 1929 RECORDED AS HARVEST IS STEPPED UP - The second largest wheat receipts ever to arrive in Fort Worth were recorded Sunday and Monday as the harvest season hit full swing in Southern Oklahoma and the Texas Plains.

A total of 832 cars, containing mostly graded No. 1 wheat, were in Fort Worth railroad yards in the two-day period, compared with a record 882 cars on July 7 and 8, 1929, according to P. R. Pierce of the Fort Worth Grain and Cotton Exchange.

Not all of the wheat, however, was billed for Fort Worth elevators. Some was destined for Texas coastal cities for export through the Commodity Credit Corporation, and the additional mileage to the Texas coast was delaying return of the empty cars to the wheat belt.

With the harvest season nearing an end in North and Central West Texas and Southern Oklahoma, workers were moving into the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles where harvesting is just beginning.

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From the Chicago Times, June 18 -

WET FARM LANDS TO HIKE FOOD PRICES - The wettest spring since Noah is likely to force prices of meats and vegetables even higher than they are now, experts agreed today.

Reports coming into private and government circles in Chicago today were that even though farmers are working night and day to get their full acreage planted the cold, wet weather has provided a "terrific" handicap to agriculture.

The worst news comes from the corn country where production may be from 15 to 25 percent below normal. This shortage is expected to make the price high, boosting the cost of the poultry, beef and hogs which feed on it.

Oats and spring wheat provide further cause for pessimism. And the farmers have a black fear now that early frosts in the fall will kill off crops which they do manage to get into the ground.

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From the Rockford (Ill.) Star, June 17 -

POTABLE POTATOES - Secretary of Agriculture Anderson thinks that people who toss brickbats at him and his department for throwing away money on potatoes, and then having to destroy some of the government-supported potatoes as they spoil, are unfair. Anderson says he actually made money for the government.

Congress allowed him \$15,000,000 to buy and sell potatoes in order to keep prices up in the face of a huge surplus. So he bought and sold potatoes. One of his biggest customers was the distillery industry. Some 19,000,000 bushels went to the distillers. In comparison with this vast stock, the amount that had to be destroyed was relatively small.

The distillers used the potatoes for potables. And, according to Anderson, the government collected \$170,000,000 in liquor taxes that it would not have received otherwise.

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From the Christian Science Monitor, Boston, June 21 -

AN EXPENSIVE TARIFF - Editorial - Spokesmen for the woolgrowers of the United States declare that their industry is being crushed by cheap foreign production. They contend that the Government's support of prices by holding 500,000,000 pounds off the market is not enough. They say it is necessary to have the bill just passed by Congress providing for an import fee or quotas in case American growers cannot meet foreign competition.

Yet Secretary Marshall, Cordell Hull, Henry L. Stimson, and many other authorities on foreign affairs declare such a measure imperils the success of the Geneva Trade Conference and the whole program for lowering world trade barriers. Is it necessary to risk so much in order to preserve the business of American woolgrowers? The Senate thought not.

- - -

From the Greenville (S.C.) News, June 19 -

LESS WHEAT NEXT YEAR - Editorial - Secretary of Agriculture Anderson says he is going to see to it that the United States wheat program tapers off next year.

A record crop is being produced from this year's harvests, far more than this country will need. But continued food shortages in the war devastated areas will require heavy shipments abroad and the United States expects to go into the new crop year without any surplus and only a moderate carryover.

The Administration will ask farmers to reduce their acreage next year in the expectation that foreign demand for American wheat will decline. Production in other countries is due to increase and larger output in the Ukraine may enable Russia to do some exporting on her own account.

It is recalled that about a year ago it was believed that the hunger areas would be able to step up production this year and pull themselves out of the worst of their difficulties. Conditions have been worse than expected, however, with the result that our huge crop can be disposed of without any trouble.

But it may be another story in 1948, when the present price support program is due to end. It will be the part of wisdom for the Administration to try to advise producers on how to suit production to probable demands.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(June 30, 1947)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington, D. C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, June 30, 1947 -

UNRRA'S END TONIGHT FINDS MANY NATIONS STILL IN NEED - The United Nations-Relief and Rehabilitation Administration officially ends at midnight tonight its four-year program of supplying emergency aid to countries in Europe and Asia.

In winding up the activities of the international relief agency, Maj. Gen. Lowell W. Rooks, director general, estimated yesterday that UNRRA had spent nearly \$3,000,000,000 to assist seventeen countries. Of that total, the United States has contributed 72 percent.

So far, UNRRA has been able to avoid collapse in the countries it is aiding, but more help will be needed if a breakdown is to be prevented, General Rooks declared, and he specifically endorsed the Marshall plan.

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SAYS GOVERNMENT LIFTS GRAIN PRICES - Washington (UP) - The National Association of Commodity Exchanges and Allied Trades, Inc., tonight placed the blame for current high prices of corn and other grains on the Government's practice of buying huge quantities for export.

It said that prices will remain high, and perhaps go higher, as long as the "domestic bin is scraped" for export, and charged that much of the "current chaos" over prices of corn can be traced to "the inept buying by inexperienced officials of the Commodity Credit Corporation."

The charges were made by J. A. Higgins Jr., executive vice president of the association, in letters to Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio and Representative Jesse P. Wolcott of Michigan, chairman and vice chairman, respectively of the joint Congressional committee on President Truman's economic report.

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GRAIN HARVESTING WELL UNDER WAY; SHORTAGE OF CARS ACUTE - Chicago - Harvesting of a record-breaking crop of winter wheat, the first 1,000,000,000 bushel yield in the history of this country, will get well under way this week. Combines have started to operate in Kansas, a state which has a prospective yield of 277,000,000 bushels, which would be an average crop in Argentina and about double the average output in Australia. Cutting of wheat in Texas and Oklahoma is well along.

Already a shortage of box cars to move the grain has developed, resulting in millions of bushels of the new wheat being piled on the ground awaiting transportation to terminal markets and mills and for export. Much of the new southwestern movement is going to fill sales to the Government or to replenish nearly exhausted mill supplies.

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From New York Journal of Commerce, June 30 -

SUGAR PRICES? - Prevailing views in the sugar trade are that prices will range between 5¢ and 6¢ a pound, in bond, for futures for delivery in May, 1948, and beyond when trading resumes tomorrow after a wartime lapse of more than five years.

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CORN OFF SHARPLY - Corn futures recede sharply with selling based on weakness in the cash market and much improved weather conditions. Wheat recovers to finish steady, aided by higher parity as of June 15 and indications that the CCC will pay \$2.24 a bushel for August 31 delivery wheat at the Gulf, only 1¢ below the July price.

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From New York Wall Street Journal, June 30 -

L. I. DUCK MAKES GRAB FOR CONSUMER DOLLAR AS MEAT PRICES SOAR - You can't go wrong buying a duck. With beef prices hurdling the moon, New York's famed Long Island duck growers will plug that theme vigorously in July.

And the selling drive has Agriculture Department blessings, Chester A. Halnan, director of the department's New York office for marketing has already nudged food editors and radio commentators. He wants budget-bothered housewives put wise that ducks are now an "especially good buy."

And figures back his argument. Wholesale beef (carcass) that brought 35 cents a pound in New York a month ago now sells for 43 cents - a 23% hike. But duck prices have dropped 13% within a month. At 26 cents a pound, wholesale duck is actually  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents under the old O.P.A. ceiling.

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FLUSH FARMERS; AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT FINDS THEM FOURFOLD AS RICH AS PRE-WAR - Washington - The men who run the nation's biggest business-farming-are better-heeled now than ever before in history.

That's the opinion of government watch-dogs of the farmers' purse. Experts in the Department of Agriculture have totted-up a post-war summary of what America's ruralists are worth. They conclude that the assets of agriculture are now better than \$100 billion, four times as large as at the beginning of the war.

Despite this rosy picture, the paternal Agriculture Department is keeping a nervous eye on its wards. Its economists see a day of reckoning on the horizon, when farm commodity prices will slump to "more realistic levels," and when farm income will drop accordingly.

Their interest lies in seeing that as many farmers as possible are financially equipped to weather the slump when it arrives. They throw melancholy glances at the farm income charts of the last depression, when many an agrarian went bankrupt.

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From Lancaster (Pa.) Intelligencer Journal, June 21 -

HOUSEWIVES PROTEST AS MEAT PRICES SOAR - Washington was bombarded with protests from home plates across the nation this week as meat prices continued to soar above black market prices of a year ago. Consumer organizations petitioned the President for an investigation by the Department of Agriculture and urged action by the Department of Justice if evidence of illegal price-fixing were found.

In many retail butcher shops, porterhouse steak quoted at 56 cents a pound under OPA in June a year ago, was selling at \$1 and over a pound. The top black market price during the meat famine last summer was 75 cents a pound. Pork loin that sold for 36 cents a pound under OPA in June, 1946, was selling at 73 cents. Its black market high had been 45 cents a pound. Veal cutlets, 50 cents under OPA, brought as much as \$1.25 a pound.

Meat industry and government officials had various explanations -- often contradictory -- for this rise.

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From Omaha (Nebr.) World Herald, June 22 -

MEAT EXPERTS AGREE PRICES WON'T DROP UNTIL SEPTEMBER - Experts differ on the causes of the most recent meat price rise but they seem in agreement on one thing:

Meat prices aren't likely to get lower in the immediate future. Not until September at least.

June 11 saw meat prices start to notch up to a higher plateau of prices. No single factor, in the consensus of those in the livestock and meat industries, seems responsible. They credit the rise to a number of factors.

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From Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger - June 22 -

THIS MAY MEAN ANOTHER RISE IN LIVING COSTS NEXT WINTER - Editorial - "Rains in the mid-west caused an upturn in corn prices to the highest level in 27 years on the Board of Trade today. The July corn future sold at \$1.94 $\frac{1}{4}$  cents, peak price since \$1.97 $\frac{1}{4}$  was reached in 1920." Chicago news item.

That is a dark augury for those hoping for a decline in essential costs of living, food prices in general and meat prices in particular. Current corn prices and prospects do not wholly account for recent rises of meat prices to new record levels. The price of meat and the price of corn are definitely and basically related, however. Corn is the principal feed on which hogs and cattle are fattened for the market, and thus is a major item in the cost of meat production. To the lesser extent, the price of corn also affects prices of other feeds.

The price of corn also naturally influences the price of foods made from it, or in which it is a major ingredient, -- meal, grits, cornstarch, and some prepared cereals.

Better growing weather, and the passing of the Mid-West floods, may improve the corn crop prospects and tend to force the market prices down. But this item makes sober reading for persons trying to estimate living cost trends next fall and winter.

From Dayton (Ohio) News, June 18 -

WOMAN, VIEWING MEAT PRICES, DECLARES FOR VEGETABLE DIET - Following at least a statewide pattern meat prices in Dayton were at high levels Wednesday — so high in fact that a butcher at a large super market said a few housewives threatened to put families on vegetarian diets until prices come down.

The reasons behind the high listings were generally the same as those reported from other Ohio cities. Mentioned most often the seasonal shortage of grain and grass fed beef and the heavy foreign buying and foreign aid shipments by the U. S. government.

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HOUSEWIVES BALK AS MEAT PRICES GO STILL HIGHER - Wilmington housewives were reported beginning a "meat boycott," yesterday as prices of beef and lamb, already described as "beyond the financial means of most wage earners," by one retailer, soared another two to eight cents a pound.

Coming on top of last week's jump of 10 cents a pound for beef, the new situation was described as "disgusting," by a large, mid-city meat reatiler. Even higher increases were recorded for lamb than beef yesterday and practically all local dealiers declared that lamb is "almost out of sight," as far as prices go.

The same situation did not exist in all the retail butcher shops, as the increases in prices varied, depending upon the sholesale house from which the butcher obtained his meat.

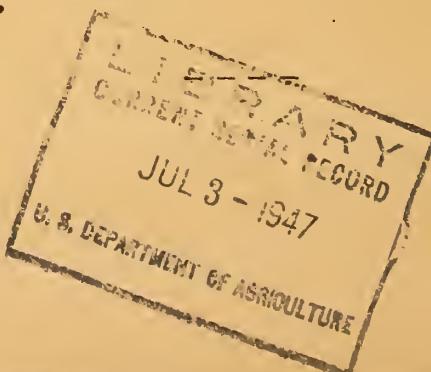
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From Cincinnati (Ohio) Enquirer, June 22 -

WHILE PURSES ARE FAT - Editorial - Housewives today probably are no less indifferent to the explanations of the economists as to the high price of meat than they were last year to the reasons given for the meat shortage. All they know is what they read in the papers or what their butchers tell them. However reasonable it sounds, it brings little comfort.

Take supply and demand, whose workings are considered as inexorable as the law of gravitation. Apparently there is more meat available than last year and the prewar years. The steady rise in prices indicates strong consumer demand.

While housewives still have a lot of dollars to invest in func cuts of steak at \$1 a pound, that's the way it's going to be. When their cash runs out, they will probably balk at paying such outrageous prices — "the principle of the thing," you know. Only thinning purses, it seems, are lined with principles.



Farm Digest 1385-47

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10/2 DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For July 1, 1947)

R Y U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, July 1 -

50 FOOD SHIPS AID JAPAN; 389,250 TONS OF RELIEF WHEAT SENT BY U.S. IN 9 MONTHS--San Francisco--Wheat shipments from Seattle and Portland for relief and rehabilitation of Japan have filled nearly fifty ships in the last nine months, according to tabulation today by Albert W. Gatov, executive director of the Pacific American Steamship Association.

Mr. Gatov said that a shipload of food and commercial fertilizer left one of the West Coast ports every three days bound for Japan. Wheat shipments for the nine months totaled 389,250 tons, with phosphate rock second in quantity with 212,500 tons, going out principally from Olympia, Wash., and Oakland, Calif. Corn shipments aggregated 34,500 tons from Pacific Northwest ports.

- - -

BRITAIN TO IMPOSE MORE IMPORT CUTS--London--An austerity import program designed to conserve dollars during the coming twelve months was laid before a sombre House of Commons today by Hugh Dalton, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Dalton told the House that the gravity of Britain's dollar position made it necessary to do everything possible to close the gap between the high import volume and the comparatively low export trade.

The new curbs will aim mainly at petroleum, films, newsprint and luxury food imports but they carry also the threat of further curtailment in import of tobacco from the United States.

- - -

FOUR-MONTH EXPORTS OF FOOD \$823,743,000--Washington--Exports of foodstuffs from the United States for the first four months of 1947 totaled \$823,743,000, the Department of Commerce reported today. This represents an increase of \$213,000 compared with a year ago.

Foodstuffs imports for the first quarter of 1947 were valued at \$598,519,-000, representing an increase of \$18,157,000 or 43.8 percent above the 1946 period.

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From the Journal of Commerce, July 1 -

OLD AGE PENSIONERS CAN WORK ON FARMS--Washington, AP--President Truman signed today legislation by which old age pensioners may be allowed to draw assistance checks while they serve as farm workers or civilian nurses. Wartime authority under which the States can disregard agricultural and nursing earning in making old age assistance available was extended by the President's signature to July 1, 1949.

The House Ways and Means Committee reported the legislation is needed to take care of a general shortage in nurses and a lack of farm labor, particularly in Oklahoma and Texas.

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From Wall Street Journal, July 1 -

FARM PRICE JUMPS of the past year haven't been "pure gravy" for farmers. Individual increases are impressive. Here are some at-the-farm price samples, mid-June 1946 compared with mid-June 1947: Wheat, \$1.74 and \$2.18 per bushel; rye, \$1.45 and \$2.40; corn, \$1.42 and \$1.85; hogs, \$14.30 and \$23.30 per hundred-weight; beef cattle, \$13.80 and \$19.50; eggs, 33.5 and 41.5 cents per dozen.

But the average price of all things farmers sell, says the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, has climbed only 24% in the 12 months. Some staples haven't shown such sharp gains. Among these are dairy products, poultry, barley, and peanuts.

And that isn't the whole story. The cost of things farmers buy, according to BAE figuring, has climbed more than 22% since last June. Comparing prices received with prices paid, BAE finds the farmers only 1.7% better off net-profit-wise.

What worries many farm experts now is this: Since reaching a peak in March, the farmer's selling prices have been declining, while costs of things he buys stick at the high point.

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SUGAR'S FREEDOM FROM RATIONING TO HOME USERS IS KICKING UP PROBLEMS. Industrial consumers are still rationed. And, say the sugar men, it's this half-free, half-slave status of the major sweet that causes trouble. Reason: Some small industrial users are slyly getting sugar (unrationed) at retail outlets. Retailers can sell 100 pounds to a buyer without asking questions.

One big bakery claims its truck drivers now bring cakes back to the plant unsold, with this explanation: "The retailers say they don't want them because they are getting cakes with thicker icings from small bakeries."

Sugar men think the third quarter boost in the industrial ration--from 75% up to 85% of 1941 use--may help relieve the trouble. But they doubt an end to the trouble.

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MORE SOYBEANS MAY BE THE RESULT OF CORN FIELD WASH OUTS. It's too late for most corn belt farmers to replant corn in patches that have been flooded out. But there's still a week or two left for soybean planting. The 1947 soybean crop is officially estimated at 196 million bushels. But grain experts now feel certain it will top 200 million.

That's a lot of soybeans. Last year's record crop was 197 million bushels. But pre-war 1939 produced only 87 million. And the 1928-37 average was a bare 22 million.

Soybeans are a major oil crop. Higher output will bring more relief from the world-wide fats-and-oils shortage.

Government experts still think the corn crop, despite too-much-rain losses, will be near three billion bushels this year. That would be a quarter billion less than last year's record, but about half a billion better than an average crop.

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FATS AND OILS prices are pointed lower. Crude soybean oil costs  $17\frac{1}{2}$  cents a pound today. But you can get delivery promised this fall and winter at 16 cents and lower. Cottonseed oil brings 22 cents a pound now; September delivery is available at 18 cents.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
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From New York Journal of Commerce, June 27 -

PRESIDENT VETOES WOOL IMPORT CURB - President Truman yesterday vetoed a bill authorizing curbs on foreign wool imports. At the same time he agreed to approve a bill to support domestic wool prices through Government purchases alone and urged Congress to pass one before it adjourns next month.

In his message to the Senate accompanying the veto, the President said it would be "a tragic mistake" just now when this country is seeking international agreement for reducing trade barriers to approve the wool bill.

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WOOL BILL VETO EASES TENSION IN GENEVA - Geneva - President Truman's veto of the United States wool bill increasing the tariff on wool imports produced relief in international trade conference circles here today. It was felt that the decision had cleared the air and left the way open for a resumption of negotiations between Australian and United States delegates.

Australian circles have repeatedly pointed out, however, that they will still require a reduction in the existing American wool tariff of 34c a pound.

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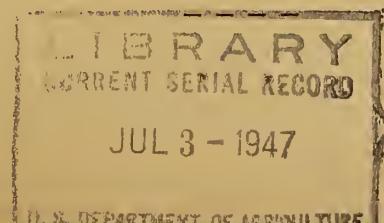
WOOL BILL VETO FORCES MILLS TO HOLD UP MAJOR PURCHASING - The expected Presidential veto of the Robertson wool bill yesterday will mean a continuance of the uncertainty surrounding United States wool legislation, hence, additional hesitancy in mill and dealer purchasing, members of the trade declared. There is little likelihood of the veto being over-ridden by Congress, it was added, which technically leaves the country with no wool support program and the Commodity Credit Corporation with no means of unloading its 360,000,000-pound stockpile at market prices.

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GRADUAL DOWNTURN SEEN FOR PRICES - Commodity prices, now probably past their peak, are headed for a 20 per cent decline during the next year, the Bankers Trust Co. predicted yesterday.

This would still leave the general price level 50 per cent over prewar averages and would be a considerably smaller decline than the one that followed World War I, the bank said.

These conclusions were reached in a special study of the price level, prepared by Roy L. Reiverson of the economics department, assistant vice president of the Bankers Trust Co.



Farm Digest 1375-47

From New York Journal of Commerce, June 27 -

CUBAN SUGAR QUOTA MAY BE INCREASED - Sugar interests are somewhat skeptical about the smooth movement of the sugar quota bill through Congress. In some quarters it is hinted that a revision of the Cuban allotment will be necessary.

It was stated that delay in adopting the measure was owing to uncertainty as to whether the President had the power to suspend quotas. In the original act the President had this power.

However, it is believed that the State Department is interested in a larger allotment for Cuba. The domestic allotments, it is pointed out, are fixed at a higher level than the normal production of these areas.

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From New York Wall Street Journal, June 27 -

SENATE APPROVES WOOL PRICE SUPPORT WITHOUT IMPORT FEE PROVISION -

Washington - The Senate yesterday approved an administration-sanctioned bill reviving wool price support and continuing it through December 31, 1948.

It acted swiftly following President Truman's veto earlier in the day of legislation which, besides price support, provided for import fees and quotas in case the price support program was endangered by imports.

The measure, approved in the Senate yesterday, now goes to the House. It authorizes the Commodity Credit Corp. to continue support of wool at prices equal to 1946. Average support price for last year was 42.3 cents a pound. It also authorizes the C. C. C. to dispose of its wool stockpile, estimated at about 450 million pounds, at less than parity prices if necessary. The parity price is about 42 cents at present.

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HOUSE GROUP APPROVES CCC EXTENSION TO JUNE, 1948 - Washington - The House Banking Committee approved a measure to extend the life of the Commodity Credit Corp. through June 30, 1948. Chairman Wolcott said committee vote was unanimous. He told reporters he expects to bring the bill to the floor today.

The measure already has been passed by the Senate and there are indications it will win quick approval in the House. The C.C.C. under existing legislation will expire at midnight Monday unless Congress grants the extension.

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WHEAT GOALS will be aimed high again this year. Even with the current bumper crop, Agriculture Secretary Anderson will call for about 70 million acres planted to the grain in 1948. He asked this for the '47 plantings and got nearer 75 million. Fear of a small corn crop is a factor in keeping wheat planting high.

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From Baltimore (Md.) Evening Sun, June 23 -

U. S. FARMS LONG WAY FROM 100% MECHANIZED - Washington (AP) - This may be the atomic age, but Old Dobbin and the mule are still the big source of working power on the farm.

The Census Bureau reported today that almost two-thirds of all farms entered the postwar period depending wholly or partly on horses and mules for power.

Of the remaining farms, fewer than one in ten use tractors exclusively. Farms in the North and East had the highest proportion of tractors, those in the South the lowest.

The bureau's report was based on an analysis of its latest (1945) farm census.

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From Terre Haute (Ind.) Star, June 17 -

MEAT PRICES - Editorial - Higher retail prices for meat are reported everywhere and prices of steers have shot up at Chicago and other big live-stock markets. As a result dollar-a-pound steak is a possibility, especially in larger centers of population. Packers say higher feed costs, plus unexpected foreign demand, are responsible. No scarcity of live animals is reported.

So far no one has attempted to place the blame on lack of price control. This may be expected, though. The loud-mouthed radical fringe will argue that if dear old OPA were still in operation prices would be more near normal even if no meat were available, as was the case before OPA was killed.

Many European countries again are buying meat. Perhaps most of them are paying for it with money "borrowed" from the United States. So, American income taxpayers are paying for steaks, but not eating them.

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From Youngstown (Ohio) Vindicator, June 19 -

MEAT AND WEATHER - The weather has done a lot of direct damage this spring; now the possibility appears that it may be indirectly responsible, at least in part, for the shocking rise in the price of meat.

Yesterday steak sold here for as much as \$1.15 a pound. Packers say the reason is an "amazing" demand for meat, especially beef. This is supported by the Department of Agriculture report that production was 317 million pounds the first week of June, 46 percent higher than a year ago.

In a further analysis, one of the big packers says the usual summer slump in the demand for meat has not yet appeared. Here suspicion falls on the weather, which has been abnormally cool, cloudy, and wet.

Perhaps as much or more weight must be given to the recent round of 15-cent-an-hour wage increases. When people have more money, they buy more meat. Besides, employment is at record-breaking levels following the customary seasonal rise in May as outdoor work opened up.

Youngstown dealers report that meat demand has been low here recently. Apparently this district is out of step with the nation-wide trend. Unfortunately the local level of demand does not fix meat prices, which are governed by the national situation. The dealers here forecast still higher prices between now and fall.

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From Worcester (Mass.) Telegram, June 19 -

POTATO TESTIMONY - Editorial - In order to prevent destruction of surplus crops, the Department of Agriculture is willing to sell potatoes at one cent a bushel for industrial use, according to S. R. Smith, the director of its Fruit and Vegetable Branch. He made this offer recently when he testified before the House Food Investigating Committee, which is especially interested in the surplus-potato problem.

Mr. Smith said that surplus potatoes had been destroyed because no use could be made of them; that he abhorred their destruction; and that it would seem to be the humane thing to permit poor people to get the potatoes. But, he declared, under the Federal price-support program the Government is obliged to remove from the market the potatoes not bringing the designated price.

That program, with that obligation, was established not by the Department of Agriculture, but by Congress. Mr. Smith made that clear. Perhaps the members all knew it anyway, and perhaps some of them had never known or had forgotten.

As a result of Mr. Smith's testimony, two points stand out. First, the Government, sanctioning the destruction of so-called surplus potatoes, is not yet clearly and fully committed to the economics of plenty. Second, members of Congress are sometimes too ready to attack the Department of Agriculture and other departments and agencies for carrying out policies which Congress itself has ordered or authorized.

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From Cincinnati (Ohio) Enquirer, June 21 -

FARM PRICES CHANGE - The present astronomical prices of farm produce don't mean that the economic problem of agriculture has been solved. Farmers as a class are very well off financially just now -- to the point that subsidy payments in many instances seem ludicrous -- but there is no assurance that farm income will remain stable at anything like the present peaks.

As a matter of fact, farm produce prices fluctuate more widely and wildly than in the case of almost any commodity.

Mindful of the fact that a change in the economic cycle may entail a disastrous reversal of the present status of farm income, it seems to us that agriculturists, economists and members of Congress should be giving serious thought to a modernized formula for maintaining stability of farm income in relation to the nation's economy as a whole. The prewar parity program and crop restriction measures worked imperfectly to the extent that they did work. Indeed, a survey made among members of the American Farm Economic Association, embracing 305 agricultural economists, showed only 4 percent believe the old 90 percent of parity scheme for maintaining farm prices is desirable. Forty per cent thought the government should support the prices of principal individual agricultural commodities at levels announced in advance. Thirty-seven percent believed that in periods of prosperity the government should support neither farm prices nor farm income, but in times of depression should support over-all on net farm income. Nineteen per cent believed the government should withdraw all price or income support, and improve its market news reports and other services to farmers.

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